HELM FIELD GUIDES

Birds of the Indian Subcontinent

Richard Grimmett · Carol Inskipp · Tim Inskipp

SHOUT
SHARE
IT

Birds of the
INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

This book is dedicated to our respective parents,
Frank and Molly Grimmett, John and Francesca Inskipp, and Tom and Joyce Robinson,
for their wonderful support and understanding.

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Richard Grimmett, Carol Inskipp and Tim Inskipp

Illustrated by
Richard Allen, Adam Bowley, Clive Byers, Daniel Cole, John Cox, Gerald Driessens, Carl d'Silva, Martin Elliott, Kim Franklin, John Gale, Alan Harris, Peter Hayman, Dave Nurney, Craig Robson, Christopher Schmidt, Brian Small, Jan Wilczur, Tim Worfolk and Martin Woodcock

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Commissioning Editor: Nigel Redman
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Front cover: Indian Pitta Pitta brachyura by John Cox
Back cover (top to bottom): Indian Courser Cursorius coromandelicus (Peter Hayman); Tickell's Blue Flycatcher Cyornis tickelliae (Alan Harris); Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon Treron sphenurus (John Cox); Red-necked Falcon Falco chicquera (Alan Harris)

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This map is not an authority on international borders

Map of the Indian Subcontinent

INTRODUCTION

This field guide is a compact version of the handbook, *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (1998). It is the second edition of the *Pocket Guide to the Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (1999), subsequently referred to as the 'pocket guide', and is a major revision of the much-reprinted first edition. For the first time, all the text and maps are placed opposite the plates, and there are now 226 colour plates, 73 more than in the first edition. Almost all of the plates have been re-composed, so that there are now no more than six or seven species per plate, and many species and even a few families or groups have been repainted for this edition. Species texts have been significantly increased for almost all species, and the maps have been completely revised.

The guide provides the most essential information for identification, in a volume that is easy to carry in the field. It should help observers identify all of the bird species recorded in the subcontinent, and it is hoped that, once basic identification skills have been acquired, birdwatchers will record their observations and use them to expand what is known about the distribution of the birds of the region, to further the conservation of threatened species and to learn more about birds and the environment in which they live.

The whole of the region is covered, comprising the countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives. The classic *Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan* by Salim Ali and S. Dillon Ripley, which also covers the entire subcontinent and was first published in 1968–1975, listed about 1,200 species. In recent years a number of additional species have been recorded in the region, producing a current total of 1,313 species for the subcontinent. A number of potential splits have been treated separately in the guide, so that the total number of forms described in the book is 1,375.

Future fieldwork will certainly lead to major advances on this work, and existing published or unpublished material will undoubtedly have been missed or given insufficient attention. The authors (c/o Christopher Helm Publishers) would be very grateful to receive, for use in future editions, any information which corrects or updates what is presented in this book.

Borders depicted in the maps in this book do not in any way imply an expression of opinion on the part of the authors as to the location of international or internal boundaries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Numerous people generously provided assistance to Richard Grimmett in the preparation of the identification texts, which are based on our book *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent*, and these people are acknowledged in that work. We are also most grateful to the many people who helped with the preparation of this second edition.

Richard would like to thank Helen and their two children, George and Ella, for being so supportive of this long-running venture.

Special thanks go to the artists whose work illustrates this book, including the artists who have painted plates for this new edition: Richard Allen, Adam Bowley, Clive Byers, Daniel Cole, John Cox, Gerald Driessens, Carl d'Silva, Martin Elliott, Kim Franklin, John Gale, Alan Harris, Peter Hayman, Dave Nurney, Craig Robson, Christopher Schmidt, Brian Small, Jan Wilczur, Tim Worfolk and Martin Woodcock. We also thank Krys Kazmierczak and Deepal Warakagoda for allowing the use of their maps as a basis for the preparation of the final maps.

We are grateful to Nigel Redman, who commissioned this second edition, and Jim Martin, who has overseen the editorial and production processes. Finally, we thank Julie Dando for her expert design and layout of the guide, including the production of more than 1,000 distribution maps.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

SPECIES INCLUDED

All species that are known to have been reliably recorded in the subcontinent up to the end of 2010 have been included. Descriptions of vagrants and a list of doubtfully recorded species are given in the Appendices at the end of the book.

TAXONOMY AND NOMENCLATURE

Taxonomy and nomenclature largely follow Inskipp *et al.* (1996). However, many proposals for taxonomic change have been made since that date, particularly in Rasmussen & Anderton (2005).

Some of these proposals for elevation to species status are adopted here, where they are supported by what are considered to be adequate published justifications in other sources.

Eastern Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha* split from Spot-billed Duck *A. poecilorhyncha*

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* split from Greater Flamingo *P. ruber* (now American Flamingo)

Great Nicobar Serpent Eagle *Spilornis klossi* split from Nicobar Serpent Eagle *S. minimus*

Brown-cheeked Rail *Rallus indicus* split from Water Rail *R. aquaticus*

Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris* split from Grass Owl *T. capensis*

Andaman Nightjar *Caprimulgus andamanicus* split from Large-tailed Nightjar *C. macrurus*

Malabar Barbet *Megalaima malabarica* split from Crimson-fronted Barbet *M. rubricapillus*

Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides* split from Rufous-tailed Shrike *L. isabellinus*

Manchurian Bush Warbler *Cettia canturians* split from Japanese Bush Warbler *C. diphone*

Hume's Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnescens* split from Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler *C. acanthizoides*

West Himalayan Bush Warbler *Bradypterus kashmirensis* split from Spotted Bush Warbler *B. thoracicus*

Sykes's Warbler *Iduna rama* split from Booted Warbler *I.* (*Hippolais*) *caligata*

Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus* split from Greenish Warbler *P. trochiloides*

Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae* split from Blyth's Leaf Warbler *P. reguloides*

Hume's Whitethroat *Sylvia althaea* split from Lesser Whitethroat *S. curruca*

Grey-bellied Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis reptatus* and Chin Hills Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis oatesi* split from Long-tailed Wren Babbler *S. chocolatinus*

Manipur Wedge-billed Babbler *Sphenocichla roberti* split from Wedge-billed Wren Babbler *S. humei*

Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus melanurus* split from Indian Scimitar Babbler *P. horsfieldii*

Kerala Laughingthrush *Garrulax fairbanki* (with Nilgiri Laughingthrush *G. cachinnans* as a subspecies) split from Grey-breasted Laughingthrush *G. jerdoni*

Bhutan Laughingthrush *Garrulax imbricatus* split from Streaked Laughingthrush *G. lineatus*

Assam Laughingthrush *Garrulax chrysopterus* split from Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *G. erythrocephalus*

Manipur Fulvetta *Fulvetta manipurensis* split from Streak-throated Fulvetta *F.* (*Alcippe*) *cinereiceps*

Hodgson's Treecreeper *Certhia hodgsoni* split from Eurasian Treecreeper *C. familiaris*

Hume's Treecreeper *Certhia manipurensis* split from Brown-throated Treecreeper *C. discolor*

Great Myna *Acridotheres grandis* split from White-vented Myna *A. cinereus*

Sri Lanka Thrush *Zoothera imbricata* split from Scaly Thrush *Z. dauma*

Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis* split from Dark-throated Thrush *T. ruficollis*

Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus* split from Naumann's Thrush *T. naumanni*

White-bellied Blue Robin *Myiomela albiventris* split from White-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx major* (now Nilgiri Blue Robin *Myiomela major*)

Red-tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe chrysopygia* split from Rufous-tailed Wheatear *O. xanthoprymna*

Nicobar Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias nicobarica* split from Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher *R. brunneatus*

Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* split from Red-breasted Flycatcher *F. parva*

Large Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis magnirostris* split from Hill Blue Flycatcher *C. banyumas*

Jerdon's Leafbird *Chloropsis jerdoni* split from Blue-winged Leafbird *C. cochinchinensis*

This leaves 91 proposed splits from various sources that have not been adopted, mainly because the justifications available are considered to be inadequate. Of these, five do not warrant elevation to species status because subsequent research has failed to support their split. They are as follows.

Rufous-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa* from Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *C. erithaca* (even if species status is justified the origin and relationships of the single Indian specimen of the apparently resident form *rufidorsa* require clarification)

Indian Yellow Tit *Parus aplonotus* from Yellow-cheeked Tit *P. xanthogenys*

Green Warbler *Phylloscopus nitidus* from Greenish Warbler *P. trochiloides*

Afghan Babbler *Turdoides huttoni* from Common Babbler *T. caudata*

Blyth's Starling *Sturnia blythii* from Chestnut-tailed Starling *S.* (*Sturnus*) *malabaricus*

A further 16 do not warrant elevation to species status because they were only provisionally split by Rasmussen & Anderton (2005). They are as follows.

Black-eared Kite *Milvus* (*migrans*) *lineatus*

Grey-headed Swamphen *Porphyrio* (*porphyrio*) *poliocephalus*

Eastern Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa* (*limosa*) *melanuroides*

Steppe Gull *Larus* (*heuglini*) *barabensis*

Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus* (*lugubris*) *dicruroides* – not given a separate account in the text because it is considered that the distribution and vocalisations of the two forms are contentious (cf. accounts in Rasmussen & Anderton 2005 and Payne 2005)

Southern Coucal *Centropus* (*sinensis*) *parroti*

Hooded Crow *Corvus* (*corone*) *cornix*

Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus* (*macrorhynchos*) *levaillantii*

Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus* (*macrorhynchus*) *culminatus*

Punjab Raven *Corvus* (*corax*) *subcorax*

Indian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus* (*stentoreus*) *brunnescens*

Siberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus* (*collybita*) *tristis*

Mandelli's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus* (*humei*) *mandellii*

Desert Whitethroat *Sylvia* (*curruca*) *minula*

Mount Victoria Babax *Babax* (*lanceolatus*) *woodi*

Vivid Niltava *Niltava* (*vivida*) *oatesi*

Another 33 are proposals for splitting from polytypic species where the entire complex of subspecies needs to be reviewed before decisions are made.

Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo burmanicus* from Common Buzzard *B. buteo*

Changeable Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus limnaeetus* from Changeable (Crested) Hawk Eagle *S. cirrhatus*

Legge's Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus kelaarti* from Mountain Hawk Eagle *S. nipalensis*

Nicobar Imperial Pigeon *Ducula nicobarica* from Green Imperial Pigeon *D. aenea*

Grey-fronted Green Pigeon *Treron affinis*, Andaman Green Pigeon *T. chloropterus* and Ashy-headed Green Pigeon *T. phayrei* from Pompadour Green Pigeon *T. pompadora*

Andaman Barn Owl *Tyto deroepstorffi* from Barn Owl *T. alba*

Collared Scops Owl *Otus lettia* from Collared Scops Owl *O. bakkamoena* (now Indian Scops Owl)

Himalayan Wood Owl *Strix nivicola* from Tawny Owl *S. aluco*

Crimson-backed Goldenback *Chrysocolaptes stricklandi* from Greater Goldenback *C. lucidus*

Malabar Woodshrike *Tephrodornis sylvicola* from Large Woodshrike *T. virgatus*

Andaman Cuckooshrike *Coracina dobsoni* from Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *C. striata*

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus* from Scarlet Minivet *P. flammeus* (now Orange Minivet)

Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius pallidirostris* from Southern Grey Shrike *L. meridionalis*

Sri Lanka Drongo *Dicrurus lophorinus* from Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *D. paradiseus*

Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus* from Great Tit *P. major*

Hill Swallow *Hirundo domicola* from Pacific Swallow *H. tahitica*

Sri Lanka Swallow *Cecropis hyperythra* from Red-rumped Swallow *C. daurica*

Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris* and Flame-throated Bulbul *P. gularis* from Black-crested Bulbul *P. melanicterus*

Square-tailed Bulbul *Hypsipetes ganeesa* from Black Bulbul *H. leucocephalus*

Hill Prinia *Prinia superciliaris* from Hill Prinia *P. atrogularis* (now Black-throated Prinia)

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta cinnamoventris* from Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *S. castanea* (now Indian Nuthatch)

Lesser Hill Myna *Gracula indica* from Common Hill Myna *G. religiosa*

Tibetan Blackbird *Turdus maximus* and Indian Blackbird *Turdus simillimus* from Common Blackbird *T. merula*

Andaman Shama *Copsychus albiventris* from White-rumped Shama *C. malabaricus*

Siberian Stonechat *Saxicola maurus* from Common Stonechat *S. torquatus*

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum minullum* and Andaman Flowerpecker *D. virescens* from Plain Flowerpecker *D. concolor* (now Nilgiri Flowerpecker)

Van Hasselt's Sunbird *Leptocoma brasiliana* from Purple-throated Sunbird *L. sperata*

Vigors's Sunbird *Aethopyga vigorsii* from Crimson Sunbird *A. siparaja*

The remaining 30 proposals fall into the category of requiring further research and compilation of data before their justification can be reassessed.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus bewickii* from Tundra Swan *C. columbianus* (needs clarification of extent of interbreeding)

Andaman Teal *Anas albogularis* from Sunda Teal *A. gibberifrons* (split only 'probably warranted')

Barbary Falcon *Falco pelegrinoides* from Peregrine Falcon *F. peregrinus* (needs clarification of relationships of all subspecies)

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* from Eurasian Marsh Harrier *C. aeruginosus* (needs clarification of extent of interbreeding)

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* from Cattle Egret *B. ibis* (molecular difference more consistent with subspecific distinction)

Indian Thick-knee *Burhinus indicus* from Eurasian Thick-knee *B. oedicnemus* (needs molecular study)

Whistling Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx nisicolor* from Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *H. fugax* (plumage and song differences relatively minor)

Sri Lanka Bay Owl *Phodilus assimilis* from Oriental Bay Owl *P. badius* (needs recordings of subspecies *ripleyi* and molecular study)

Indian Eagle Owl *Bubo bengalensis* from Eurasian Eagle Owl *B. bubo* (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005 state that specific status 'is not fully established')

Hume's Hawk Owl *Ninox obscura* from Brown Hawk Owl *N. scutulata* (split based on unpublished manuscript)

Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka* from Grey Nightjar *C. indicus*, now Jungle Nightjar (needs molecular study)

House Swift *Apus nipalensis* from Little Swift *A. affinis* (needs clarification of claimed sympatry and morphological variation – also not supported by Rasmussen & Anderton 2005)

White-throated Brown Hornbill *Anorrhinus austeni* from Brown Hornbill *A. tickelli* (vocalisations similar, plumage differences minor)

Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos analis* from Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *D. macei* (vocalisations poorly known, needs molecular study)

Sri Lanka Woodshrike *Tephrodornis affinis* from Common Woodshrike *T. pondicerianus* (needs comparison with *T. virgatus* complex)

Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus kundoo* from Eurasian Golden Oriole *O. oriolus* (needs clarification of vocal differences, molecular data inconclusive)

White-spotted Fantail *Rhipidura albogularis* from White-throated Fantail *R. albicollis* (extensive introgression)

Large-spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga multipunctata* from Spotted Nutcracker *N. caryocatactes* (needs clarification of possible intermediates, and molecular study)

Grey-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis* from Plain Martin *R. paludicola* (needs molecular study)

Pale Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta* from Rock Martin *P. fuligula* (clarification of intermediate populations)

Andaman Bulbul *Pycnonotus fuscoflavescens* from Black-headed Bulbul *P. atriceps* (needs molecular study)

Swamp Prinia *Prinia cinerascens* from Rufous-vented Prinia *P. burnesii* (needs more on morphometrics, and relationships of newly described subspecies *nepalicola*)

Eastern Orphean Warbler *Sylvia crassirostris* from Orphean Warbler *S. hortensis* (needs data on morphology and vocalisations in area of close approach/overlap)

Buff-chested Babbler *Stachyris ambigua* from Rufous-fronted Babbler *S. rufifrons* (vocalisations very similar, plumage differences minor)

Nilgiri Thrush *Zoothera neilgherriensis* from Scaly Thrush *Z. dauma* (needs recordings of vocalisations)

Himalayan Bluetail *Tarsiger rufilatus* from Red-flanked Bluetail *T. cyanurus* (needs molecular study)

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla* from Black-headed Munia *L. malacca* (needs clarification of introgression)

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* from Yellow Wagtail *M. flava* (needs clarification of constituent subspecies)

Blyth's Rosefinch *Carpodacus grandis* from Red-mantled Rosefinch *C. rhodochlamys* (needs clarification of apparently intermediate subspecies)

Spotted Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus severtzovi* from Great Rosefinch *C. rubicilla* (needs molecular study)

In most cases where the above potential splits provide additional forms to the parent species in the subcontinent, they are given separate accounts for clarity in the text. To indicate their provisional status the header text is in roman font (not bold), and the parent species name is included in parentheses after the generic name, e.g. Black-eared Kite *Milvus* (*migrans*) *lineatus*.

Seven other recently proposed potential splits have not been given separate accounts in the text and are briefly mentioned here to draw attention to them.

Himalayan Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius ripleyi* and Blyth's Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus* from White-browed Shrike-babbler *P. flaviscapis* (need clarification of distribution and vocalisations of these forms)

Clicking Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius intermedius* from Chestnut-fronted Shrike-babbler *P. aenobarbus* (known from only one specimen of an endemic subspecies in the subcontinent so relationships difficult to determine)

Orange-eared Parrotbill *Suthora humii*, Grey-breasted Parrotbill *Suthora poliotis* and Buff-breasted Parrotbill *Suthora ripponi* from Black-throated Parrotbill *S. nipalensis* (need the detailed results of a molecular study)

Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Psittiparus bakeri* from Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill *P. ruficeps* (needs molecular study)

The sequence largely follows Dickinson (2003), although some species have been grouped out of this systematic order to enable useful comparisons to be made.

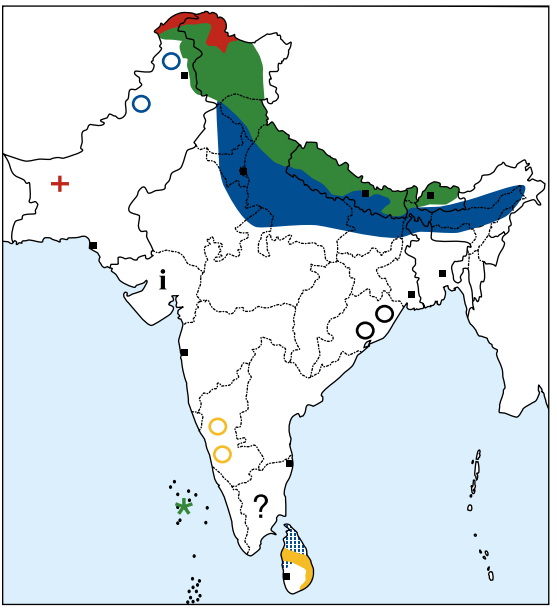
The English names of birds are another contentious issue, with almost as many different names for some species as there are books describing them. The names adopted here mainly follow Gill & Wright (2006) and updates in http://www.worldbirdnames.org/, the exceptions being those which, in the opinion of the authors, are more appropriate for the species concerned. In cases where the names used differ from those adopted by World Bird Names or those used in our original Pocket Guide, we have provided the alternative name in the text.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

On the colour plates distinctive sexual and subspecies variations are illustrated, as well as immature plumages whenever possible. While the guide aims to be as comprehensive as possible, some plumages recognisable in the field have not been illustrated owing to space limitations.

Distribution maps and species texts are on the page facing the relevant illustrations. The text comprises identification features (**ID**), including voice (**Voice**) for most species, as well as approximate body length of the species, including bill and tail, in centimetres. Length is expressed as a range when there is marked variation within the species (e.g. as a result of sexual dimorphism or subspecific differences). Habitat and habits (**HH**) that are useful for identification are also included where space allows. A taxonomic note (**TN**) or an alternative English name (**AN**) is given at the end where relevant. Readers are recommended to refer to *Birds of the Indian Subcontinent* (Grimmett *et al.* 1998) for more detailed information.

Key to the maps



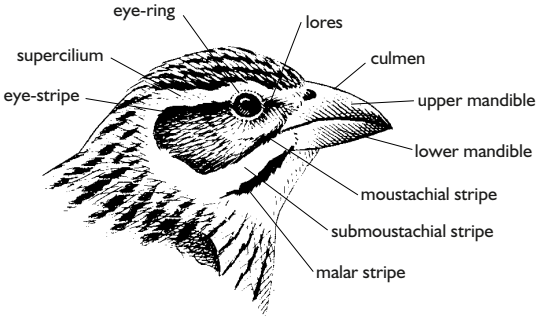
- major city
- international border
- state border
- resident (inc. local and altitudinal migrants)
- former range (no recent records but may still survive)
- summer visitor (including summer monsoon)
- winter visitor
- passage (autumn and/or spring) visitor
- known to be occasional, scarce or erratic
- small isolated population (actual range smaller)*
- isolated record(s) – one or more in the same area*
- * isolated record(s) – exact location uncertain*
- ? uncertain record
- i locally introduced or feral
- † formerly pesent (believed extirpated)
- + occasional breeding/has bred
- × possible breeding

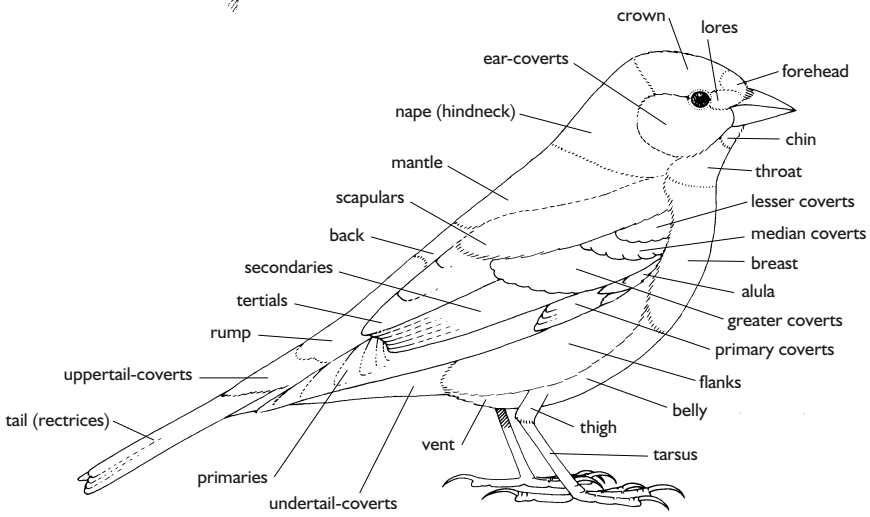
* colour coded for seasonality as per coloured ranges, black denotes unspecified season

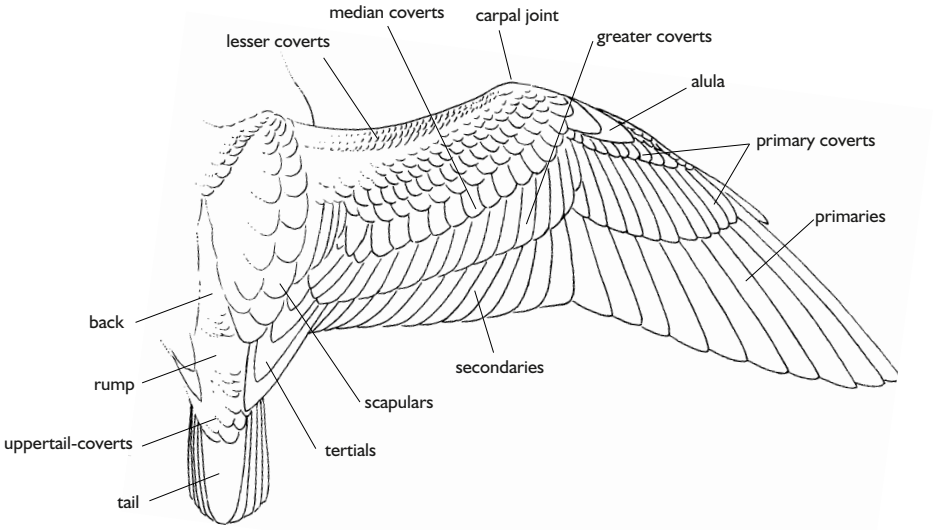
PLUMAGE TERMINOLOGY

The figures below illustrate the main plumage tracts and bare-part features. This terminology for bird topography has been used in the species texts. Other terms have been used and are defined in the glossary. Juvenile plumage is the first plumage on fledging, and in many species it is looser, more fluffy, than subsequent plumages. In some families, juvenile plumage is retained only briefly after leaving the nest (e.g. pigeons), or hardly differs from adult plumage (e.g. many babblers), while in other groups it may be retained for the duration of long migrations or for many months (e.g. many waders). In some species (e.g. *Aquila* eagles), it may be several years before all juvenile feathers are finally moulted. The relevance of the juvenile plumage to field identification therefore varies considerably. Some species reach adult plumage after their first post-juvenile moult (e.g. larks), whereas others go through a series of immature plumages. The term 'immature' has been employed more generally to denote plumages other than adult, and is used either where a more exact terminology has not been possible or where more precision would give rise to unnecessary complexity. Terms such as 'first-winter' (resulting from a partial moult from juvenile plumage) or 'first-summer' (plumage acquired prior to the breeding season of the year after hatching) have, however, been used where it was felt that this would be useful.

Many species assume a more colourful breeding plumage, which is often more striking in the male than in the female. This either can be realised through a partial (or in some species complete) body moult (e.g. waders) or results from the wearing away of pale or dark feather fringes (e.g. redstarts and buntings).







GLOSSARY

See also figures above, which cover bird topography.

Axillaries: the feathers in the armpit at the base of the underwing.

Biotope: a particular area which is substantially uniform in its environmental conditions and its flora and fauna.

Cap: a well-defined patch of colour or bare skin on the top of the head.

Carpal patch: a well-defined patch of colour on the underwing in the vicinity of the carpal joint.

Cere: a fleshy (often brightly coloured) structure at the base of the bill, containing the nostrils.

Collar: a well-defined band of colour that encircles or partly encircles the neck.

Culmen: the ridge of the upper mandible.

Edgings or edges: outer feather margins, which can frequently result in distinct paler or darker panels of colour on wings or tail.

Filoplume: a thin, hair-like feather.

Flight feathers: the primaries, secondaries and tail feathers (although not infrequently used to denote the primaries and secondaries alone).

Fringes: complete feather margins, which can frequently result in a scaly appearance to body feathers or wing-coverts.

Gape: the mouth and fleshy corner of the bill, which can extend back below the eye.

Gonys: a bulge in the lower mandible, usually distinct on gulls and terns.

Graduated tail: a tail in which the longest feathers are the central pair and the shortest the outermost, with those in between intermediate in length.

Gular pouch: a loose and pronounced area of skin extending from the throat (e.g. on pelicans or hornbills).

Gular stripe: a usually very narrow (and often dark) stripe running down the centre of the throat.

Hackles: long and pointed neck feathers that can extend across mantle and wing-coverts (e.g. on junglefowls or Nicobar Pigeon).

Hand: the outer part of the wing, from the carpal joint to the tip of the wing.

Hepatic: used with reference to the rufous-brown morph of some (female) cuckoos.

Iris (plural irides): the coloured membrane which surrounds the pupil of the eye and which can be brightly coloured.

Leading edge: the front edge of the forewing.

Local: occurring or common within a small or restricted area.

Mandible: the lower or upper half of the bill.

Mask: a dark area of plumage surrounding the eye and often covering the ear-coverts.

Morph: a distinct plumage type that occurs alongside one or more other distinct plumage types exhibited by the same species.

Nominate: the first-named race of a species, that which has its scientific racial name the same as the specific name.

Nuchal: relating to the hindneck, used with reference to a patch or collar.

Ocelli: eye-like spots of iridescent colour; a distinctive feature in the plumage of peafowls and Grey Peacock Pheasant.

Pelagic: of the open sea.

Plantation: a group of trees (usually exotic or non-native species) planted in close proximity to each other, used for timber or as a crop.

Primary projection: the extension of the primaries beyond the longest tertial on a closed wing; this can be of critical importance in identification (e.g. of larks or *Acrocephalus* warblers).

Race: subspecies, a geographical population whose members all show constant differences (e.g. in plumage or size) from those of other populations of the same species.

Rectrices (singular rectrix): the tail feathers.

Remiges (singular remex): the primaries and secondaries.

Shaft streak: a fine line of pale or dark colour in the plumage, produced by the feather shaft.

Shola: a patch of montane evergreen wet temperate forest, usually in a sheltered hill valley among rolling grassy hills from about 1500 m upwards, found in south India and Sri Lanka.

Speculum: the often glossy panel across the secondaries of, especially, dabbling ducks, often bordered by pale tips to these feathers and a greater-covert wing-bar.

Subterminal band: a dark or pale band, usually broad, situated inside the outer part of a feather or feather tract (used particularly in reference to the tail).

Terai: the undulating alluvial, often marshy strip of land 25–45 km wide lying north of the Gangetic plain, extending from Uttar Pradesh through Nepal and northern West Bengal to Assam; naturally supports tall elephant grass interspersed with dense forest, but large areas have been drained and converted to cultivation.

Terminal band: a dark or pale band, usually broad, at the tip of a feather or feather tract (especially the tail); cf. Subterminal band.

Trailing edge: the rear edge of the wing, often darker or paler than the rest of the wing; cf. Leading edge.

Vent: the area around the cloaca (anal opening), just behind the legs (should not be confused with the undertail-coverts).

Vermiculated: marked with narrow wavy lines, usually visible only at close range.

Wattle: a lobe of bare, often brightly coloured skin attached to the head (frequently at the bill-base), as on the mynas or the wattled lapwings.

Wing-linings: the entire underwing-coverts.

Wing panel: a pale or dark band across the upperwing (often formed by pale edges to the remiges or coverts), broader and generally more diffuse than a wing-bar.

Wing-bar: generally a narrow and well-defined dark or pale bar across the upperwing, and often referring to a band formed by pale tips to the greater or median coverts (or both, as in 'double wing-bar').

THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

CLIMATE

There are great contrasts in climate within the subcontinent. The extremes range from the almost rainless Great Indian or Thar desert to the wet evergreen forests of the Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, where an annual rainfall of 1,300cm has been recorded at Cherrapunji (one of the wettest places on Earth), and to the arctic conditions of the Himalayan peaks, where only alpine flowers and cushion plants flourish at above 4,900m. There are similar contrasts in temperature ranges. In the Thar desert, summer temperatures soar to as high as 50°C while winter temperatures drop to 0°C. On the Kerala coast, the annual and daily ranges of temperature and humidity are small; the average temperature is about 27°C and the average relative humidity is 60–80%.

Despite these variations, one feature dominates the subcontinent's climate, and that is the monsoons. Most of the rain in the region falls between June and September, during the southwest-monsoon season. Typically, the monsoon begins in Kerala and the far northeast in late May or early June and moves north and west to extend over the rest of the area by the end of June, although it starts rather earlier in Sri Lanka and the Andaman Islands. In the Himalayas, the monsoon rains reach the east first and leave this area last. The monsoon begins to retreat from the northwest at the beginning of September, and usually withdraws completely by mid October.

Rain continues, however, in the southern peninsula, and in the southeast around half the annual rain falls between October and mid December. This is brought by winds coming from the northeast during the northeast monsoon. In contrast, in much of the northern part of the subcontinent there is generally clear, dry weather in October, November and early December. Low-pressure systems from the west during this season do, however, bring some light to moderate precipitation to Pakistan and northern India.

MAIN HABITATS AND BIRD SPECIES

The bird habitats of the Indian subcontinent can be roughly divided into forest, scrub, wetlands (inland and littoral), marine, grassland, desert, and agricultural land. There is some overlap between habitats; for example, mangrove forest can also be considered as wetland, as can seasonally flooded grassland. Many bird species require mixed habitat types.

Forests

There is a great variety of forest types in the region. Tropical forest ranges from coastal mangroves to wet, dense evergreen forest, dry deciduous forest and open-desert thorn forest. In the Himalayas, temperate forest includes habitats of mixed broadleaves, moist oak and rhododendron, and dry coniferous forest of pines and firs; higher up, subalpine forest of birch, rhododendron and juniper occurs.

The forest areas of the region are vitally important for many of its birds. Over half of the bird species in the subcontinent identified by BirdLife International as globally threatened – and two-thirds of the region's endemics – are dependent on forest.

Primary tropical and subtropical broadleaved evergreen forest supports the greatest diversity of bird species. Significant areas of these forest habitats still remain in the eastern Himalayas and adjacent hills of northeast India, in the Western Ghats, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and in Sri Lanka. They also contain a higher number of endemic and globally threatened species than any other habitat in the region.

Tropical deciduous forest, including moist and dry sal and teak forest, riverine forest and dry thorn forest, once covered much of the plains and lower hills of the subcontinent. Several widespread endemic species are chiefly confined to these habitats, including Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala*.

Temperate and subalpine forest grows in the Himalayas. These forest types support a relatively high proportion of species with restricted distributions, notably White-throated Tit *Aegithalos niveogularis*.

Scrub

Scrub has developed in the region where trees are unable to grow, either because soils are poor and thin, or because they are too wet, as at the edges of wetlands or on seasonally inundated floodplains. Scrub also grows naturally in extreme climatic conditions, as in semi-desert or at high altitudes in the Himalayas. In addition, there are now large areas of scrubland in the region where forest has been overexploited for fodder and fuel collection or grazing.

Relatively few birds in the subcontinent are characteristic of scrub habitats alone, but many are found in scrub mixed with grassland, in wetlands or at forest edges.

Wetlands

Wetlands are abundant in the region and support a rich array of waterfowl. As well as providing habitats for breeding resident species, they include major staging and wintering grounds for waterfowl breeding in central and northern Asia. The region possesses a wide range of wetland types, distributed almost throughout, including mountain glacial lakes, freshwater and brackish marshes, large water-storage reservoirs, village tanks, saline flats and coastal mangroves and mudflats. A total of 23 of the subcontinent's wetland bird species are globally threatened.

The subcontinent's most important wetland sites include Chilika Lake, a brackish lagoon in Orissa on the east Indian coast; wetlands in the Indus valley in Pakistan; the Sunderbans in the Ganges/Brahmaputra delta in Bangladesh and India; the extensive seasonally flooded artificial lagoons of Keoladeo Ghana National Park; the vast saline flats of the Ranns of Kutch in northwest India; wetlands in the moist tropical and subtropical forest of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh; the marshes, jheels and terai swamps of the Gangetic plain; Point Calimere and Pulicat Lake on India's east coast; the Haor basin of Sylhet and east Mymensingh in northeast Bangladesh; and the Brahmaputra floodplain in the Assam lowlands. Small water-storage reservoirs or tanks are a distinctive feature in India and provide important feeding and nesting areas for a wide range of waterbirds in some places, for example on the Deccan plateau.

Grasslands

The most important grasslands for birds in the subcontinent are the seasonally flooded grassland occurring across the Himalayan foothills and in the floodplains of the Indus and Brahmaputra rivers, the arid grassland of the Thar desert, and grasslands in peninsular India, especially those in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. These lowland grasslands support distinctive bird communities, with a number of specialist endemic species. Most of the region's endemic grassland birds are at serious risk, including Lesser Florican *Sypheotides indicus*, Great Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigriceps*, Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striata* and Finn's Weaver *Ploceus megarhynchus*.

Desert

The Thar desert is the largest desert in the region, covering an area of 200,000km^2 in northwest India and Pakistan. There are other extensive arid areas in Pakistan; the hot deserts of the Chagai, a vast plain west of the main mountain ranges of Baluchistan, and the Thal, Cholistan and Sibi deserts in central and eastern Pakistan. The far northern mountain regions, which the monsoon winds do not penetrate, experience a cold-desert climate. There is only one bird species, Stoliczka's Bushchat *Saxicola macrorhynchus*, which is virtually endemic to the region.

Seas

As a result of increased watching by dedicated observers, several seabirds have been added to the region's avifauna in recent years, including the threatened Barau's Petrel *Pterodroma baraui*, which was described as recently as 1963, and Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*. Seabird colonies in the subcontinent are concentrated chiefly in the Maldives and Lakshadweep Islands.

IMPORTANCE FOR BIRDS

Up to the time of going to press (August 2011), a total of 1,313 species (with an additional 87 species proposed for splitting) had been confirmed from the Indian subcontinent. As many as 13% of the world's birds have been recorded in the region. These include 157 endemic species, amore than 10% of the region's avifauna.

Globally threatened species

A total of 87 globally threatened species has been recorded in the subcontinent; this status is noted at the end of the relevant species account.

New species

New species are continually being added to the region's list. In 1991, the diminutive Nepal Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga immaculata* was first described from the Himalayan forests of Nepal (Martens & Eck 1991). The enigmatic Serendib Scops Owl *Otus thilohoffmanni* was described in 2004 from Sri Lanka (Warakagoda & Rasmussen 2004) and the spectacular Bugun Liocichla *Liocichla bugunorum* was only described in 2006, from Arunachal Pradesh in India (Athreya 2006); both are endemic to the region.

Other species added to the subcontinent list since the publication of the first Pocket Guide edition include Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus*, Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*, Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*, Stock Dove *Columba oenas*, Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis*, Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*, Chestnut-cheeked Starling *Agropsar philippensis*, Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus*, Giant Laughingthrush *Garrulax maximus* and European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*.

Extinct species

Two species from the subcontinent may now be globally extinct. These are Pink-headed Duck *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea* and Himalayan Quail *Ophrysia superciliosa*, although some ornithologists consider that both could still survive.

Recent rediscoveries

Two species endemic to India have been rediscovered relatively recently. Jerdon's Courser *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus* was re-found in 1986, having last been recorded in 1900. The Forest Owlet *Heteroglaux blewitti* was located in 1997; the previous reliable record was as long ago as the 19th century.

Species richness

The Indian subcontinent is rich in species. This is partly because of its wide altitudinal range, extending from sea level up to the summit of the Himalayas, the world's highest mountains. Another reason is the region's highly varied climate and associated diversity of vegetation. The other major factor contributing to the subcontinent's species richness is its geographical position, in a region of overlap between three biogeographical provinces: the Indomalayan (south and southeast Asia), Palearctic (Europe and northern Asia), and Afrotropical (Africa) realms. As a result, species typical of all three regions occur. Most are Indomalayan, typified by the ioras and minivets; some are Palearctic, including the accentors; and a small number, Spotted Creeper *Salpornis spilonotus*, for example, originate in Africa.

Restricted-range species and endemic bird areas

BirdLife International has analysed the distribution patterns of birds with restricted ranges – landbird species that have, throughout historical times (i.e. since around 1800), had a total global breeding range of below 50,000km^2 (about the size of Sri Lanka) (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998). A total of 99 restricted-range species breeds in the subcontinent, and a further four occur as non-breeding visitors from areas outside the region (Stattersfield *et al.* 1998). BirdLife International's analysis showed that restricted-range species tend to occur in places that are often islands or isolated patches of a particular habitat. These are known as centres of endemism, and are often called Endemic Bird Areas or 'conservation hotspots'. BirdLife has identified eight centres of endemism in the Indian subcontinent.

The wet lowland and montane rainforest zones of the eastern Himalayas in India, Nepal and Bhutan (also extending into Burma and southwest China) form an important Endemic Bird Area. Further isolated endemic-rich areas of rainforest are on the coastal flanks of the Western Ghats and in southwestern Sri Lanka. The other Endemic Bird Areas are the western Himalayas in India, Nepal and Pakistan; the central Himalayas; the Assam plains, which lie in the floodplain of the Brahmaputra in Bangladesh and India; and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal. Seven of the subcontinent's eight Endemic Bird Areas are largely forest areas.

More widespread species

The subcontinent still supports very large populations of some large waterbirds and birds of prey, such as the Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala*, which is now extirpated or rare in South-east Asia.

Migration

The large majority (more than 1,000) of the species recorded in the region are resident, although the populations of some of these are augmented by winter visitors breeding farther north. Some residents are sedentary throughout the year, while others undertake irregular movements, either locally or more widely within the region, depending on water conditions or food supply. Many Himalayan residents are altitudinal migrants, the level to which they descend in winter frequently depending on weather conditions; for instance, the Grandala *Grandala coelicolor* summers at up to 5,500m and winters chiefly down to 3,000m, but it has been recorded as low as 1,950m in bad weather. A number of other residents in the subcontinent breed in the Himalayas and winter further south in the region, one example being the endemic Pied Thrush *Zoothera wardii*, which spends the winter in Sri Lanka.

Twenty-six species are summer visitors to the region, six of which are possibly resident, and a few other species are also passage migrants. Most summer visitors, such as Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus*, winter in Africa. Several species breed chiefly to the north and west of the subcontinent and extend just into Pakistan and northwest India, for instance European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*. Some species move southeastwards, perhaps as far as Malaysia and Indonesia; White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* is one such example.

The subcontinent attracts 229 winter visitors, some of which are also passage migrants and residents. In addition there is a small number of species (9) which are known only as passage migrants. The winter visitors originate mostly in northern and central Asia.

Information on migration routes in the region is still patchy, but it is believed that many of the subcontinent's winter visitors come through Pakistan, mainly en route to India and Sri Lanka. Ringing recoveries have shown that many winter visitors enter the subcontinent via the Indus plains. There is less information about migration routes in the northeast of the region, but the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries are thought to form a flyway for birds from northeast Asia. Increasing evidence suggests that some birds breeding in the Palearctic, mainly non-passerines, migrate directly across the Himalayas to winter in the subcontinent. Other birds follow the main valleys, such as those of the Kali Gandaki, Dudh Kosi and Arun in Nepal. Birds of prey, especially *Aquila* eagles, have also been found to use the Himalayas as an east-west pathway in autumn; the wintering area of these birds is unknown. Spot-winged Starling *Saroglossa spiloptera* also undertakes east-west movements along the Himalayas, and it is possible that other species perform similar migrations.

A number of pelagic and coastal passage migrants and wintering species travel by oceanic or coastal routes. One identified coastal flyway lies on India's east coast, linking Point Calimere in Tamil Nadu with Chilika and Pulicat Lakes. Migration patterns of seabirds are particularly poorly understood, but there is now evidence that some species occur more regularly than previously thought, especially around the time of the southwest monsoon. A few species that breed outside the region and winter in east Africa migrate through Pakistan and northwest India, for example Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*. As they occur mainly on autumn passage, they presumably use a different route in spring.

In addition to the subcontinent's residents, summer and winter visitors and passage migrants, 83 vagrant species have been recorded.

CONSERVATION

RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND TRADITIONAL PROTECTION

The enlightened and benevolent attitudes of Hinduism and Buddhism towards wildlife have undoubtedly helped to conserve the rich natural heritage of the Indian subcontinent that still remains today. India has a tradition of protection of all forms of animals dating from as early as 3,000 years ago, when the Rig Veda mentioned animals' right to live. Several communities, such as the Buddhists and the Jains, protect living creatures in daily life. Sacred groves, village tanks and temples where the hunting and killing of all forms of life are prohibited can be found throughout India.

CURRENT THREATS

Birds in the region are currently confronted with many threats, the most important of which are habitat loss and deterioration. Root causes of damage to and loss of habitats are complex, interlinked and often controversial. Overpopulation is often blamed for the region's environmental ills; India is predicted to take over from China as the world's most populous nation by the year 2020. Other factors are, however, important: current agricultural practices, poverty, inequitable land distribution, insecurity of tenure, lack of political will, weak governance, national debt (which encourages countries to overexploit their natural resources for export), damaging international policies, high demand from overseas for resources, and misguided national policies.

Threats to forests

Both the extent and the quality of forest resources are declining throughout much of the region. According to the 2005 FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment in 2005, India's forest cover was only 22.8% of the country's land area. Forest coverage in Nepal and Sri Lanka was a little higher (25.4% and 29.9% respectively). Much of the remaining forests in these countries are degraded. Bhutan, however, still retains much of its forest relatively intact, with 68% of its land area under forest. A high proportion of Bhutan's forests are high-density; the country possesses some of the best forest habitats left in the whole of the Himalayan region.

The major threats to natural forest are overexploitation for fuel, timber and livestock fodder, overgrazing which prevents forest regeneration, and the conversion of forest to other land uses: agriculture, notably shifting cultivation, tree plantations, urban land, and reservoirs through dam construction.

Threats to wetlands

Wetland destruction and degradation in the region are reducing the diversity of wetlands and the populations of many bird species. Major threats include overexploitation of wetland resources, as local demands often exceed wetlands' ability to regenerate. Increasing hydroelectric developments are altering the characteristics and dynamics of entire river ecosystems in the region. Drainage and siltation of wetlands and intensive prawn cultivation are among many other threats. Many wetlands are becoming polluted by sewage, industrial effluents and agricultural fertilisers and pesticides, although these impacts have not been quantified on a national basis. Other significant threats include overgrazing of shorelines and marshes, and widespread mining of gravel from river beds.

Deforestation has resulted in habitat loss for some waterbirds. Swamp forest, which was once extensively distributed in Bangladesh, is now on the verge of disappearing. Mangrove areas, too, have also been severely damaged in many parts of India and completely wiped out in some areas.

While many of the region's natural wetlands have disappeared, new wetlands have been created. These include lakes and marshes upstream of dams and barrages on some rivers, certain of which now provide excellent habitat for waterbirds. Other wetlands have developed as a result of faulty drainage systems and overspill from irrigation canals. Rice production has also created large areas of seasonally useful habitat for some waterbirds in parts of the region, although in some parts of the region, notably in Bangladesh, natural wetlands are being reclaimed for production of rice.

Threats to grasslands

Grassland has been greatly reduced, fragmented and degraded by large-scale expansion of agriculture, conversion to other kinds of land use, drainage, and overgrazing. Apart from grasslands located within protected areas, practically every grass-growing tract in the region is grazed by domestic livestock. Encroachment by graziers is also increasing in protected areas. Large increases in livestock have led to widespread overgrazing, and this problem has been exacerbated as more and more grazing lands have been converted to other land uses.

Threats to desert

The spread of irrigation has significantly reduced the habitat of desert birds. Between 1950 and 1990, the area under irrigation increased by 70% in Pakistan and by as much as 118% in India.

Agricultural practices

Agricultural practices have become intensified in recent years in parts of the region, leading to increased production and yields but damaging impacts on bird populations. A recent review of the impacts of agriculture on birds in Nepal found that increases in crop production are taking place as a result of the spread of agriculture into natural habitats, chiefly forests; a practice which is unsustainable as even marginal land on steep slopes is being cleared (Inskipp & Baral 2011).

Poisoning by diclofenac, a drug used to treat livestock ailments, has been identified as responsible for the now highly threatened status of vultures in the region. Steps are now being taken to stop this practice and there are some signs of a recovery in the White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* population.

Over-use of fertilisers has led to nutrient enrichment in water, which is harmful to all freshwater life, including birds. Pesticide use has increased, including the use of persistent chemicals, such as the organochlorines DDT and aldrin, which do not readily break down in the environment. These pesticides build up in food chains, particularly affecting species at the apex, notably birds of prey. Pesticides leached from agricultural land contaminate rivers and streams and build up in aquatic food chains, thereby affecting fish and fish-eating birds. In Europe, such factors have been shown to cause widespread declines of numerous bird species, many of which were previously common, including birds of prey, shrikes and finches (Tucker & Heath 1994). There is increasing evidence that the same thing is happening in the Indian subcontinent.

Current agricultural practices in Nepal have been shown to be unsustainable, resulting in degradation of farmlands, forests and wetlands. Together with high pesticide and fertiliser use and a major switch to cash crops, agricultural methods are now having a highly damaging impact on Nepal's birds (Inskipp & Baral 2011).

Other threats

The impacts of climate change on the subcontinent's birds are likely to be significant but are poorly understood at present. Some of the region's threatened species which are largely confined to protected areas are likely to be affected. As the climate changes, habitats in these protected areas may eventually become no longer suitable for these species. However, as natural habitats outside protected areas have been converted to agriculture or developed, these birds have nowhere to go.

Hunting is a major threat to some species in Pakistan (notably cranes and bustards) and in Bangladesh (particularly migratory waterfowl and waders). Local fishermen collect eggs of seabirds wherever they nest colonially in Pakistan and the Maldives. Persecution is so great in the Maldives that it seems doubtful whether many young of any seabird species now survive (Ash & Shafeeg 1995). Similar predation is also reported on Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda*, River Tern *S. aurantia* and Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis* along some rivers in the subcontinent and have contributed to the decline in these species. In parts of India and Nepal, hunting is on the increase as traditional values wane and is now significant for many species, notably threatened bustards, pheasants and waterbirds.

Until recently there was a large domestic and international bird trade in India but, since 1991, all bird trade has been banned. Undercover operations have, however, revealed that thousands of birds are still regularly caught and traded, both within India and for export, although in much-reduced numbers compared with those previously traded. Caged birds are popular in Pakistan. In recent years, in the Maldives, a very

large trade seems to have developed in the marketing of wild birds as pets (Ash & Shafeeg 1995). A TRAFFIC investigation of the owl trade in India recorded 15 of India's 30 owl species in the live owl trade. Owls are trapped and traded for use in black magic, street performances and as decoys for other birds; killed for taxidermy and for their meat; and their parts are used in folk medicines (Ahmed 2010). Another study revealed that owls in Nepal are similarly threatened by the live bird trade, especially Indian Eagle Owl *Bubo* (*bubo*) *bengalensis* (Acharya and Ghimirey 2009).

Serious threats are posed by some invasive alien weeds in the region. Water Hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes* can quickly cover wetlands, so changing the habitat for many waterbirds. Recently, the introduced Bittervine *Mikania micrantha,* which can smother all other plants including tall forest trees at an alarming rate, has become a major problem in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Consequences

Losses and deterioration of habitats and other threats have resulted in widespread declines in bird populations, but we can only speculate on the changes that are occurring for most species. Apart from the annual waterfowl counts organised by Wetlands International, and some studies on globally threatened species, there is a lack of baseline data for monitoring most birds, especially common and widespread species.

In BirdLife International's 2010 assessment 1,240 bird species were considered threatened by extinction (12.5% of the world's avifauna) including 78 species that regularly occur in the Indian subcontinent.

Conservation measures

Traditional protection, religious beliefs, legal measures and the efforts of conservation organisations have all helped to counter, albeit only partially, the threats confronting birds in the subcontinent. Without them, the region's extinct and threatened bird species would be much greater in number.

In addition to the impact of religious beliefs and traditional protection, legal conservation measures are in force in all countries in the subcontinent. The Convention on Biological Diversity has been ratified by all countries in the region. This commits member countries to conserve the variety of animals and plants within their jurisdiction and to aim to ensure that the use of biological resources is sustainable. All the subcontinent countries with major wetlands have ratified the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Ramsar Convention. This requires the protection of wetlands of international importance, the promotion of wetlands and the fostering of their wise use.

There is widespread protected-area coverage in the region. The protected-areas system in Bhutan is especially impressive, covering over 35% of the country and representing all of its major ecosystems. Large proportions of Nepal (over 20%, not counting buffer zones), Sri Lanka (15%) and Pakistan (11%) are also covered by protected areas. Protected-area coverage is lower in India (over 6%) and is only 1.5% in Bangladesh.

Local, national and international non-governmental organisations have made a major impact on bird conservation and conservation awareness. The main national and international organisations and their activities are listed on page 504.

The BirdLife book *Threatened Birds of Asia* describes all Asian species at risk of extinction, highlighting the threats they face and the conservation measures proposed to save them; data were compiled by national co-ordinators in each country (Collar *et al*. 2001). In 2003 BirdLife followed this work by *Saving Asia's Threatened Birds: a Guide for Government and Civil Society*, which sets out the priorities for the conservation of birds and habitats in Asia.

The selection of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) has been a particularly effective way of identifying conservation priorities. IBAs are key sites for conservation – small enough to be conserved in their entirety and often already part of a protected-area network. They do one (or more) of three things:

- Hold significant numbers of one or more globally threatened species
- Are one of a set of sites that together hold a suite of restricted-range species or biome-restricted species
- Have exceptionally large numbers of migratory or congregatory species

The IBA Programme aims to identify, monitor and protect a global network of IBAs for the conservation of the world's birds and other biodiversity. BirdLife Partners take responsibility for the IBA Programme nationally, with the BirdLife Secretariat taking the lead on international aspects (BirdLife International 2011).

Since IBAs are identified, monitored and protected by national and local organisations and individuals, working on the ground, the IBA Programme can be a powerful way to build national institutional capacity and to set an effective conservation agenda.

BirdLife International Important Birds Areas in the Indian Subcontinent. Further information on these sites can be found at http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/site

FAMILY SUMMARIES

MEGAPODES, PARTRIDGES, PHEASANTS AND ALLIES Phasianidae

These heavy-bodied birds feed and nest on the ground, but many species roost in trees at night. They are good runners, often preferring to escape on foot rather than taking to the air. Their flight is powerful and fast, but except in the case of the migratory quail, it cannot be sustained for long periods. Typically, they forage by scratching the ground with strong feet to expose food hidden among dead leaves or in the soil. They mainly eat seeds, fruit, buds, roots and leave, complemented by invertebrates.

WHISTLING-DUCKS, SWANS, GEESE AND DUCKS Anatidae

Aquatic and highly gregarious, typically migrating, feeding, roosting and resting together, often in mixed flocks. Most species are chiefly vegetarian when adult, feeding on seeds, algae, plants and roots, often supplemented by aquatic invertebrates. Their main foraging methods are diving, surface-feeding or dabbling, and grazing. They also upend, wade, filter and sieve water and debris for food and probe with the bill. They have a direct flight with sustained fast wingbeats, and characteristically they fly in V-formation.

SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS Procellariidae

Marine species coming to shore only to breed. They feed on zooplankton, squid, fish and offal, seized on or below the water surface. Gregarious, often gathering in flocks at food concentrations. Typically they fly by a combination of rapid, rather stiff wing-beats, interspersed with long glides (gliding or 'shearing' being more pronounced in strong winds.

STORM-PETRELS Hydrobatidae

Relatively small, ocean-going birds with long pointed wings and forked or square tails. They usually feed by picking items from the sea surface, often while skipping on the water. Storm-petrels have a more fluttering flight than petrels.

GREBES Podicipedidae

Aquatic birds adapted for diving from the surface and swimming under water to catch fish and aquatic invertebrates. Their strong legs are placed near the rear of their almost tailless body, and the feet are lobed. In flight grebes have an elongated appearance, with the neck extended, and feet hanging lower than the humped back. They usually feed singly, but may form loose congregations in the non-breeding season.

STORKS Ciconiidae

Large or very large birds with long bills, necks and legs, long and broad wings and short tails. In flight, the legs are extended and the neck is outstretched. They have a powerful, slow-flapping flight and frequently soar for long periods, often at great heights. They capture fish, frogs, snakes, lizards, large insects, crustaceans and molluscs while walking slowly in marshes, at the edge of lakes and rivers, and in grassland.

FLAMINGOS Phoenicopteridae

Large wading birds with long necks, very long legs, webbed feet and pink plumage. The bill is highly specialised for filter-feeding. Flamingos often occur in huge numbers and are found mainly on salt lakes and lagoons.

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS Threskiornithidae

Large birds with long necks and legs, partly webbed feet and long broad wings. Ibises have long, decurved bills and forage by probing in shallow water, mud and grass. Spoonbills have long spatulate bills, and catch floating prey in shallow water; there is only one spoonbill species in the region.

BITTERNS AND HERONS Ardeidae

Medium-sized to large birds with long legs for wading. The diurnal herons have slender bodies and long heads and necks; the night herons are more squat, with shorter necks and legs. They fly with leisurely flaps, with the legs outstretched and projecting beyond the tail, and nearly always with neck and head drawn back. They frequent marshes and the shores of lakes and rivers. Typically, herons feed by standing motionless at the water's edge waiting for prey to swim within reach, or by slow stalking in shallow water or on land. Bitterns usually skulk in reedbeds, although occasionally one may forage in the open, and they can clamber about reed stems with agility. Normally they are solitary and crepuscular, and are most often seen flying low over reedbeds with slow wing-beats, soon dropping into cover again. When in danger bitterns freeze, pointing the head and neck upward and compressing their feathers so that the whole body appears elongated. The bitterns are characterised by their booming territorial calls. Herons and bitterns feed on a wide variety of aquatic prey.

FRIGATEBIRDS Fregatidae

Large aerial seabirds that rarely land on water, and roost and nest in trees and bushes. Agile in the air, and can soar for long periods. Noted for chasing other seabirds, especially boobies, until they drop or disgorge their food, but also capture their own prey by diving to the water surface. They are chiefly storm-driven visitors to the coast, typically during monsoons.

PELICANS Pelecanidae

Large aquatic, gregarious fish-eating birds. The wings are long and broad, and the tail is short and rounded. They have characteristic long, straight, flattened bills, hooked at the tip, and with a large expandable pouch suspended beneath the lower mandible. Many pelicans often fish cooperatively by swimming forward in a semicircular formation, driving the fish into shallow water; each bird then scoops up fish from the water into its pouch before swallowing the food. Pelicans fly either in V-formation or in lines, and often soar for considerable periods in thermals. They are powerful fliers, proceeding by steady flaps and with the head drawn back between the shoulders. When swimming the closed wings are typically held above the back.

TROPICBIRDS Phaethontidae

Aerial seabirds which range over tropical and subtropical waters, and nest mainly on oceanic and offshore islands. Graceful and pigeon-like flight with flapping and circling alternating with long glides. Usually solitary, but may congregate with flocks of feeding terns. They feed by first hovering to locate prey (mainly fish and squid) and then plunge-diving on half-closed wings.

BOOBIES Sulidae

Large seabirds. They forage on the wing, scanning the sea, and on sighting fish or squid they plunge-dive at an angle. Flight is direct with alternating periods of flapping and gliding.

ANHINGAS Anhingidae

Large aquatic birds adapted for hunting fish underwater. Anhingas have long slender necks and heads, long wings and very long tails. Darter is the only species in the family in the region.

CORMORANTS Phalacrocoracidae

Medium-sized to large aquatic birds. They are long-necked, with hook-tipped bills of moderate length and long, stiff tails. Cormorants swim with the body low in the water, with the neck straight and the head and bill pointing a little upwards. They eat mainly fish, which are caught by underwater pursuit. In flight, the neck is extended and the head is held slightly above the horizontal. Typically they often perch for long periods in upright posture with spread wings and tail on trees, posts or rocks.

FALCONS Falconidae

Small to medium-sized birds of prey which resemble the Accipitridae in having hooked bills, sharp curved talons, and remarkable powers of sight and flight. Like other raptors they are mainly diurnal, although a few are crepuscular. Some falcons kill flying birds in a surprise attack, often by stooping at great speed (e.g. Peregrine); others hover and then swoop on prey on the ground (e.g. Common Kestrel) and several species hawk insects in flight (e.g. Eurasian Hobby).

OSPREY, HAWKS, EAGLES, HARRIERS AND VULTURES etc Accipitridae

A large and varied family of raptors, ranging from the Besra to the huge Griffon Vulture. In most species, the vultures being an exception, the female is larger than the male, and is often duller and brownish. The Accipitridae feed on mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, crabs, molluscs and insects – dead or alive. All have hooked, sharp-tipped bills and very acute sight, and all except the vultures have powerful feet with long curved claws. They frequent all habitat types, ranging from dense forests, deserts and mountains to fresh waters.

BUSTARDS Otididae

Medium-sized to large terrestrial birds that inhabit grasslands, semi desert, and desert. They have fairly long legs, stout bodies, long necks, and crests and neck plumes, which are exhibited in display. The wings are broad and long, and in flight the neck is outstretched. Their flight is powerful and can be very fast. When feeding, bustards have a steady, deliberate gait. They are more or less omnivorous, and feed opportunistically on large insects, such as grasshoppers and locusts, young birds, shoots, leaves, seeds and fruits. Males perform elaborate and spectacular displays in the breeding season.

FINFOOTS Heliornithidae

Medium-sized aquatic birds with a comparatively long and thick neck, the bill is thick and tapering, the toes have wide lobes and the tail is relatively long and stiff. They swim, dive and run well, but rarely fly. There is only one species in the region, Masked Finfoot.

RAILS, CRAKES, GALLINULES AND COOTS Rallidae

Small to medium-sized birds, with moderate to long legs for wading and short rounded wings. With the exception of the Common Moorhen and Common Coot, which spend much time swimming in the open, rails are mainly terrestrial. Many occur in marshes. They fly reluctantly and feebly, with legs dangling, for a short distance and then drop into cover again. Most are heard more often than seen, and are generally voluble at dusk and at night. Their calls consist of strident or raucous repeated notes. They eat insects, crustaceans, amphibians, fish and vegetable matter.

BUTTONQUAILS Turnicidae

Small, plump terrestrial birds. They are found in a wide variety of habitats having a dry, often sandy substrate and low ground cover under which they can readily run or walk. Buttonquails are very secretive and fly with great reluctance, with weak whirring beats low over the ground, dropping quickly into cover. They feed on grass and weed seeds, grain, greenery and small insects, picking food from the ground surface, or scratching with the feet.

CRANES Gruidae

Stately long-necked, long-legged birds with tapering bodies, and long inner secondaries which hang over the tail. The flight is powerful, with the head and neck extended forwards and legs and feet stretched out behind. Flocks of cranes often fly in V-formation; they sometimes soar at considerable heights. Most cranes are gregarious outside the breeding season, and flocks are often very noisy. Cranes have a characteristic resonant and far-reaching musical trumpet-like call. A wide variety of plant and animal food is taken. The bill is used to probe and dig for plant roots and to graze and glean vegetable material above the ground. Both sexes have a spectacular and beautiful dance that takes place throughout the year.

THICK-KNEES Burhinidae

Medium-sized to large waders, mainly crepuscular or nocturnal, and with cryptically patterned plumage. They eat invertebrates and small animals.

OYSTERCATCHERS Haematopodidae

Oystercatchers are waders that usually inhabit the seashore and are only vagrants inland. They have all-black or black and white plumage. Their bills are long, stout, orange-red and adapted for opening shells of bivalve mollusks. Eurasian Oystercatcher is the only family member recorded in the region.

PLOVERS Charadriidae

Plovers, lapwings and dotterels are small to medium-sized waders with rounded heads, short necks and short bills. Typically, they forage by running in short spurts, pausing and standing erect, then stooping to pick up invertebrate prey. Their flight is swift and direct.

CRAB-PLOVER Dromadidae

Mainly white wader. The distinctively shaped thick black bill is adapted for preying on crabs and other crustaceans which it hunts chiefly on coastal mudflats and reefs. Usually found singly, in pairs and in small parties, but hundreds occurring at traditional roost sites. Mainly crepuscular. It is the only species in its family.

IBISBILL Ibidorhynchidae

Ibisbill is a wader with a distinctive red decurved bill used for probing for small aquatic animals among stones in the shallows of mountain rivers. It is the only species in its family.

STILTS AND AVOCETS Recurvirostridae

Stilts and avocets are waders that have characteristic long bills, and longer legs in proportion to the body than any other birds except flamingos. They inhabit marshes, lakes and pools. Pied Avocet is the only avocet species in the region.

PAINTED-SNIPES Rostratulidae

Waders that frequent marshes and superficially resemble snipes, but have spectacular plumages. Greater Painted-snipe is the only species in the family recorded in the region.

JACANAS Jacanidae

Jacanas characteristically have very long toes, which enable them to walk over floating vegetation. They inhabit freshwater lakes, ponds and marshes.

SNIPES, CURLEWS AND SANDPIPERS Scolopacidae

Woodcocks and snipes are small to medium-sized waders with very long bills, fairly long legs and cryptically patterned plumages. They feed mainly by probing with their bills in soft substrates and also by picking from the surface. Their diet consists mostly of small aquatic invertebrates. If approached, they usually crouch at first on the ground and 'freeze', preferring to rely on their protective plumage pattern to escape detection. They generally inhabit marshy ground. Godwits, dowitchers, curlews and phalaropes are wading birds with quite long to very long legs and a long bill. They feed on small aquatic invertebrates. Sandpipers, stints, Dunlin and knots are small to medium-sized, rather plump waders with medium to longish bill, and medium-long legs.

PRATINCOLES AND COURSERS Glareolidae

Coursers and pratincoles have arched and pointed bills, wide gapes and long, pointed wings. Coursers are long-legged and resemble plovers; they feed on the ground. Most pratincoles are short-legged; they catch most of their prey in the air, although they also feed on the ground. All pratincoles live near water, whereas coursers frequent dry grassland and dry stony areas.

GULLS, TERNS, NODDIES AND SKIMMERS Laridae

Gulls are medium-sized to large birds with relatively long, narrow wings, usually a stout bill, moderately long legs and webbed feet. Immatures are brownish and cryptically patterned. In flight, gulls are graceful and soar easily in updraughts. All species swim buoyantly and well. They are highly adaptable, and most species are opportunistic feeders with a varied diet, including invertebrates. Most species are gregarious.

Terns and noddies are small to medium-sized aerial birds with gull-like bodies, but are generally more delicately built. The wings are long and pointed, typically narrower than those of the gulls, and the flight is buoyant and graceful. Terns are highly vocal and most species are gregarious. Three groups of terns occur in the region: the *Sterna* terns, the *Chlidonias* or marsh terns, and the noddies of the genus *Anous*, plus the unique White Tern of the monotypic genus *Gygis*. The *Sterna* terns generally have deeply forked tails. *Sterna* terns mainly eat small fish and crabs caught by hovering and then plunge-diving from the air, often submerging completely; also by picking prey from the surface. Marsh terns lack a prominent tail-fork and, compared with *Sterna* terns, are smaller, more compact and short-tailed, and have a more erratic and rather stiff-winged flight. Typically, marsh terns hawk insects or swoop down to pick small prey from the water surface. Noddies are pelagic terns, with distinctive wedge-shaped and slightly forked tails. Noddies feed chiefly on small fish, squid, crustaceans and plankton, which they usually catch far out at sea, often feeding on moonlight nights.

Skimmers are distinguished by their long, strong scissor-like bills with elongated lower mandibles. They feed by skimming the water surface with the bill open and lower mandible partly immersed to snap up fish. Indian Skimmer is the only species recorded in the region.

SKUAS Stercorariidae

Aerial seabirds, with strong, hooked bills, long, pointed wings, short legs, and webbed feet. Jaegers feed by chasing other seabirds, especially terns, until they drop or disgorge their food. They are usually found in marine waters, some distance from land, but are occasionally found inshore and may occur inland after monsoon storms.

SANDGROUSE Pteroclidae

Cryptically patterned terrestrial birds resembling the pigeons in size and shape. The wings of sandgrouse are long and pointed. Most sandgrouse are wary and, when disturbed, rise with a clatter of wings, flying off rapidly and directly with fast and regular wing-beats. They walk and run well, foraging mainly for small hard seeds picked up from the ground and sometimes also eating green leaves, shoots, fruits and berries, small bulbs and insects. They need to drink every day, and will sometimes travel over long distances to waterholes. Most sandgrouse have regular drinking times which are characteristic of each species, and they often visit traditional watering places, sometimes gathering in quite large numbers. Most species are gregarious except during the breeding season.

PIGEONS AND DOVES Columbidae

Have stout compact bodies, rather short necks, and small heads and bills. Their flight is swift and direct, with fast wingbeats. Most species are gregarious outside the breeding season. Seeds, fruits, buds and leaves form their main diet, but many species also eat small invertebrates. They have soft plaintive cooing or booming voices that are often monotonously repeated.

PARROTS AND HANGING PARROTS Psittacidae

Have short necks and short, stout hooked bills with the upper mandible strongly curved and overlapping the lower mandible. Most parrots are noisy and highly gregarious. They associate in family parties and small flocks and gather in large numbers at concentrations of food, such as paddy-fields. Their diet is almost entirely vegetarian: fruit, seeds, buds, nectar and pollen. The flight of *Psittacula* parrots is swift, powerful and direct. The hanging parrots are much smaller with short tails lacking streamers. They habitually sleep upside-down.

CUCKOOS, MALKOHAS AND COUCALS Cuculidae

Cuckoos have elongated bodies with fairly long necks, tails varying from medium length to long and graduated, and quite long, decurved bills. Almost all cuckoos are arboreal. Cuckoos eat hairy caterpillars. Male cuckoos of most species are very noisy in the breeding season, calling frequently during the day, especially if cloudy, and often into the night. When not breeding they are silent and unobtrusive, and as a result their status and distribution at this season are very poorly known. Cuckoos are notorious for their nest parasitism.

Malkohas are larger than cuckoos, plumper-bodied with stouter bills and very long graduated tails. They are usually seen singly or in pairs in the middle storey. Malkohas raise their own young.

Coucals are large, skulking birds with long graduated tails and weak flight. They are terrestrial, frequenting dense undergrowth, bamboo, tall grassland or scrub jungle. Coucals eat small animals and invertebrates.

BARN OWLS Tytonidae; TYPICAL OWLS Strigidae

Owls have large and rounded heads, big forward-facing eyes surrounded by a broad facial disc, and short tails. Most are nocturnal and cryptically coloured and patterned, making them inconspicuous when resting during the day. When hunting, owls either quarter the ground or scan and listen for prey from a perch. Their diet consists of small animals and invertebrates. Owls are usually located by their distinctive and often weird calls, which are diagnostic of the species and advertise their presence and territories.

FROGMOUTHS Podargidae

Frogmouths have the same cryptic colouring, soft plumage, wide gape and nocturnal habits as nightjars, but differ in some of their habitats. They are more arboreal than nightjars, nesting and roosting in trees and hunting from them at night by pouncing on prey.

NIGHTJARS Caprimulgidae

Small to medium-sized birds with long, pointed wings, and gaping mouths with long bristles that help to catch insects in flight. Nightjars are crepuscular and nocturnal in habit, with soft, owl-like, cryptically patterned plumage. By day they perch on the ground or lengthwise on a branch, and are difficult to detect. They eat flying insects that are caught on the wing. Typically, they fly erratically to and fro over and among vegetation, occasionally wheeling, gliding and hovering to pick insects from foliage. Most easily located by the calls.

SWIFTS Apodidae; TREESWIFTS Hemiprocnidae

Have long pointed wings, compact bodies, short bills with a wide gape and very short legs. Swifts spend most of the day swooping and wheeling in the sky with great agility and grace. Typical swift flight is a series of rapid shallow wing-beats interspersed with short glides. They feed entirely in the air, drink and bathe while swooping low over water, and regularly pass the night in the air. Swifts eat mainly tiny insects, caught by flying back and forth among aerial concentrations of these with their large mouths open; they also pursue individual insects.

HOOPOES Upupidae

Have a distinctive appearance, with long decurved bills, short legs, rounded wings. They are insectivorous and forage by pecking and probing the ground. Flight is undulating, slow and butterfly-like. Common Hoopoe is the only species in the family recorded in the region.

TROGONS Trogonidae

Brightly coloured, short-necked, medium-sized birds with long tails, short rounded wings and rather short, broad bills. They usually keep singly or in widely separated pairs. Characteristically, they perch almost motionless in upright posture for long periods in the middle or lower storey of dense forests. Trogons are mainly insectivorous and also eat leaves and berries. They capture flying insects on the wing when moving from one vantage point to another, twisting with the agility of a flycatcher.

ROLLERS Coraciidae

Stoutly built, medium-sized birds with large heads and short necks, which mainly eat large insects. Typically, they keep singly or in widely spaced pairs. Flight is buoyant, with rather rapid deliberate wing-beats.

KINGFISHERS Alcedinidae

Small to medium-sized birds, with large heads, long strong bills and short legs. Most kingfishers spend long periods perched singly or in well-separated pairs, watching intently before plunging swiftly downwards to seize prey with bill; they usually return to the same perch. They eat mainly fish, tadpoles and invertebrates; larger species also eat frogs, snakes, crabs, lizards and rodents. Their flight is direct and strong, with rapid wing-beats and often close to the surface.

BEE-EATERS Meropidae

Brightly coloured birds with long decurved bills, pointed wings and very short legs. They catch large flying insects on the wing, by making short, swift sallies like a flycatcher from an exposed perch such as a treetop, branch, post or telegraph wire; insects are pursued in a lively chase with a swift and agile flight. Some species also hawk insects in flight like swallows. Most species are sociable. Their flight is graceful and undulating, a few rapid wing-beats followed by a glide.

HORNBILLS Bucerotidae

Medium-sized to large birds with massive bills with variable-sized casque. Mainly arboreal, feeding chiefly on wild figs *Ficus*, berries and drupes, supplemented by small animals and insects. Flight is powerful and slow, and for most species consists of a few wing-beats followed by a sailing glide with the wing-tips upturned. In all but the smaller species, the wing-beats make a distinctive loud puffing sound audible for some distance. Hornbills often fly one after another in follow-my-leader fashion. Usually found in pairs or small parties, sometimes in flocks of up to 30 or more where food is abundant.

BARBETS Ramphastidae

Arboreal, and usually found in the treetops. Despite their bright coloration, they can be very difficult to see, especially when silent, their plumage blending remarkably well with tree foliage. They often sit motionless for long periods. Barbets call persistently and monotonously in the breeding season, sometimes throughout the day; in the non-breeding season they are usually silent. They are chiefly frugivorous, many species favouring figs *Ficus*. Their flight is strong and direct, with deep woodpecker-like undulations.

HONEYGUIDES Indicatoridae

Small, inconspicuous birds that inhabit forest or forest edge. A peculiarity of the family is that they also eat wax, usually from bee combs. Spend long periods perched upright and motionless. Feed by clinging to bee combs, often upside-down and by aerial sallies. Yellow-rumped Honeyguide is the family member in the region.

WRYNECK, PICULETS AND WOODPECKERS Picidae

Chiefly arboreal, and usually seen clinging to, and climbing up, vertical trunks and lateral branches. Typically, they work up trunks and along branches in jerky spurts, directly or in spirals. Some species feed regularly on the ground, searching mainly for termites and ants. Most species have powerful bills, for boring into wood to extract insects and for excavating nest holes. Woodpeckers feed chiefly on ants, termites, and grubs and pupae of wood-boring beetles. Most woodpeckers also hammer rapidly against tree trunks with their bill, producing a loud rattle, known as 'drumming', which is used to advertise and in defence of their territories. Their flight is strong and direct, with marked undulations. Many species can be located by their characteristic loud calls.

BROADBILLS Eurylaimidae

Small to medium-sized plump birds with rounded wings and short legs, most species having a distinctively broad bill. Typically they inhabit the middle storey of forest and feed mainly on invertebrates gleaned from leaves and branches. Broadbills are active when foraging, but are often unobtrusive and lethargic at other times.

PITTAS Pittidae

Brilliantly coloured, terrestrial forest passerines. They are of medium size, stocky and long-legged, with short square tails, stout bills and an erect carriage. Most of their time is spent foraging for invertebrates on the forest floor, flicking leaves and other vegetation, and probing with their strong bill into leaf litter and damp earth. Pittas usually progress on the ground by long hopping bounds. Typically, they are skulking and are often most easily located by their high-pitched whistling calls or songs. They sing in trees or bushes.

WOODSHRIKES Uncertain family

Medium-sized, arboreal, insectivorous passerines. The bill is stout and hooked, the wings are rounded, and the tail is short.

WOODSWALLOWS Artamidae

Plump birds with long, pointed wings, short tail and legs, and wide gapes. They feed on insects, usually captured in flight, and spend prolonged periods on the wing. They perch close together on a bare branch or wire, and often waggle the tail from side to side.

IORAS Aegithinidae

Small, lively group of passerines that feed in trees, mainly on insects and especially on caterpillars.

CUCKOOSHRIKES, MINIVETS AND ALLIES Campephagidae

Cuckooshrikes are arboreal, insectivorous birds that usually keep high in the trees. They are of medium size, with long pointed wings, moderately long rounded tails, and an upright carriage when perched.

Minivets are small to medium-sized, brightly coloured passerines with moderately long tails and an upright stance when perched. They are arboreal, and feed on insects by flitting about in the foliage to glean prey from leaves, buds and bark, sometimes hovering in front of a sprig or making short aerial sallies. They usually keep in pairs in the breeding season, and in small parties when not breeding. When feeding and in flight, they continually utter contact calls.

Trillers are black and white, medium-sized birds with fairly long tails and strong, slim black bills. The Pied Triller is the only species of the genus that has been recorded in the region.

Flycatcher-shrikes are small pied birds with arboreal flycatching habits and an upright stance when perched. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike is the only species of this genus recorded in the region.

MANGROVE WHISTLER Pachycephalidae

Whistlers are reminiscent of chats and flycatchers but more strongly built with thick rounded heads, short thick necks and short heavy bills. They pick insects from branches and foliage but also fly-catch. Mangrove Whistler is the only family member recorded in the region.

SHRIKES Laniidae

Medium-sized, predatory passerines with strong, stout bills, hooked at the tip of the upper mandible, strong legs and feet, large heads, and long tails with graduated tips. Shrikes search for prey from a vantage point, such as the top of a bush or small tree or post. They swoop down to catch invertebrates or small animals from the ground or in flight. Over long distances their flight is typically undulating. Their calls are harsh, but most have quite musical songs and are good mimics. Shrikes typically inhabit open country with scattered bushes or light scrub.

DRONGOS Dicruridae

Medium-sized passerines with characteristic black and often glossy plumage, long, often deeply forked tails, and a very upright stance when perched. They are mainly arboreal and insectivorous, catching larger-winged insects by aerial sallies from a perch. Usually found singly or in pairs. Their direct flight is swift, strong and undulating. Drongos are rather noisy, and have a varied repertoire of harsh calls and pleasant whistles; some species are good mimics.

ORIOLES Oriolidae

Medium-sized arboreal passerines that usually keep hidden in the leafy canopy. Orioles have beautiful, fluty, whistling songs and harsh grating calls. They are usually seen singly, in pairs or in family parties. Their flight is powerful and undulating, with fast wing-beats. They feed mainly on insects and fruit.

FANTAILS Rhipiduridae

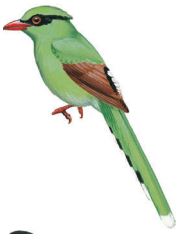
Small, confiding, arboreal birds, perpetually on the move in search of insects. Characteristically, they erect and spread their tails like fans, and droop the wings, while pirouetting and turning from side to side with jerky, restless movements. When foraging, they flit from branch to branch, making frequent aerial sallies after winged insects. They call continually. Fantails are usually found singly or in pairs, and often join mixed hunting parties with other insectivorous birds.

MONARCHS Monarchidae

Most species are small to medium-sized, with long, pointed wings and a medium-length to long tail. They feed mainly on insects. Black-naped Monarch and Asian Paradise-flycatcher are the only two species in the family recorded in the region.

CROWS Corvidae

These are all robust perching birds which differ considerably from each other in appearance, but which have a number of features in common: a fairly long straight bill, very strong feet and legs, and a tuft of nasal bristles extending over the base of the upper mandible. The sexes are alike or almost alike in plumage. They are strong fliers. Most are gregarious, especially when feeding and roosting. Typically, they are noisy birds, uttering loud and discordant squawks, croaks or screeches. The Corvini are highly inquisitive and adaptable.



TITS Paridae; LONG-TAILED TITS Aegithalidae

With the exception of Groundpecker, tits and long-tailed tits are small, active, highly acrobatic passerines with short bills and strong feet. Their flight over long distances is undulating. They are mainly insectivorous, although many species also depend on seeds, particularly from trees in winter, and some also eat fruit. They probe bark crevices, search branches and leaves, and frequently hang upside-down from twigs. Tits are chiefly arboreal, but also descend to the ground to feed, hopping about and

flicking aside leaves and other debris. They are very gregarious; in the non-breeding season most species join roving flocks of other insectivorous birds. Groundpecker is a thrush-sized terrestrial bird unlike other tits, with strong decurved bill, long legs and an upright stance.

MARTINS AND SWALLOWS Hirundinidae

Gregarious, rather small passerines with a distinctive slender, streamlined body, long, pointed wings and small bills. The long-tailed species are often called swallows, and the shorter-tailed species termed martins. All hawk day-flying insects in swift, agile, sustained flight, sometimes high in the air. Many species have a deeply forked tail, which affords better manoeuvrability. Hirundines catch most of their food while flying in the open. They perch readily on exposed branches and wires.

LARKS Alaudidae

Terrestrial cryptically coloured passerines, generally small-sized, which usually walk and run on the ground and often have a very elongated hindclaw. Their flight is strong and undulating. Larks take a wide variety of food, including insects, molluscs, arthropods, seeds, flowers, buds and leaves. Many species have a melodious song, which is often delivered in a distinctive, steeply climbing or circling aerial display, but also from a conspicuous low perch. They live in a wide range of open habitats, including grassland and cultivation.

HYPOCOLIUS AND WAXWINGS Bombycillidae

Hypocolius often keeps in flocks in winter. Forages chiefly by hopping and clambering about within trees and bushes, feeding mainly on berries. Flight is strong and direct, with rapid wing-beats and occasional swooping glides or circling high. Settles on the tops of bushes and remains still for long period. Raises nape feathers when excited or alarmed.

Waxwings have soft plumage, crested heads, short broad-based bills and short, strong legs and feet. Outside the breeding season, they are found wherever fruits are available. Only Bohemian Waxwing has been recorded in the region.

BULBULS Pycnonotidae

Medium-sized passerines with soft, fluffy plumage, rather short and rounded wings, medium-long to long tails, slender bills and short, weak legs. Bulbuls feed on berries and other fruits, often supplemented by insects, and sometimes also nectar and buds of trees and shrubs. Many species are noisy, especially when feeding. Typically, bulbuls have a variety of cheerful, loud, chattering, babbling and whistling calls. Most species are gregarious in the non-breeding season.

CISTICOLAS, PRINIAS AND ALLIES Cisticolidae

Cisticolas are a group of tiny, short-tailed, insectivorous passerines. The tail is longer in winter than in summer. They are often found in grassy habitats, and many have aerial displays.

Prinias have long, graduated tails that is longer in winter than in summer. Most inhabit grassland, marsh vegetation or scrub. They forage by gleaning insects and spiders from vegetation, and some species also feed on the ground. When perched, the tail is often held cocked and slightly fanned. Their flight is weak and jerky.

Tailorbirds have long, decurved bills, short wings and graduated tails, the latter held characteristically cocked.

Grassbirds are brownish warblers with longish tails. They inhabit damp tall grassland. The males perform song flights in the breeding season.

WARBLERS Sylviidae

Bush warblers are medium-sized warblers with rounded wings and tail that inhabit marshes, grassland and forest undergrowth. They are usually found singly. Bush warblers call frequently, and are usually heard more often than seen. *Cettia* species have surprisingly loud voices, and some can be identified by their distinctive melodious songs. Bush warblers seek insects and spiders by actively flitting and hopping about in vegetation close to the ground. They are reluctant to fly, and usually cover only short distances at low level before dropping into dense cover again. When excited, they flick their wings and tail.

Locustella warblers are very skulking, medium-sized warblers with rounded tails, usually found singly. Characteristically, they keep low down or on the ground among dense vegetation, walking furtively and scurrying off when startled. They fly at low level, flitting between plants, or rather jerkily over longer distances, ending in a sudden dive into cover.

Acrocephalus warblers are medium-sized to large warblers with prominent bills and rounded tails. They usually occur singly. Many species are skulking, typically keeping low down in dense vegetation. Most frequent marshy habitats, and are able to clamber about readily in reeds and other vertical stems of marsh plants. Their songs are harsh and often monotonous.

Hippolais warblers are medium-sized warblers with large bills, square-ended tails and a distinctive domed head shape with a rather sloping forehead and peaked crown. Their songs are harsh and varied. They clamber about vegetation with a rather clumsy action.

Leaf warblers are rather small, slim and short-billed warblers. Useful identification features are voice, strength of supercilium, colour of underparts, rump, bill and legs, and presence or absence of wing-bars, of coronal bands or of white on the tail. The coloration of upperparts and underparts and the presence or prominence of wing-bars are affected by wear. Leaf warblers are fast moving and restless, hopping and creeping about actively and often flicking the wings. They mostly glean small insects and spiders from foliage, twigs and branches, often first disturbing prey by hovering and fluttering; they also make short fly-catching sallies.

Sylvia warblers are small to medium-sized passerines with fine bills. Typically, they inhabit bushes and scrub and feed chiefly by gleaning insects from foliage and twigs; they sometimes also consume berries in autumn and winter.

BABBLERS Timaliidae

A large and diverse group of small to medium-sized passerines. They have soft, loose plumage, short or fairly short wings, and strong feet and legs. The sexes are alike in most species. Members of this tribe associate in flocks outside the breeding season, and some species do so throughout the year. Babbler flocks are frequently a component of mixed-species feeding parties. Most babblers have a wide range of chatters, rattles and whistles; some have a melodious song. Many are terrestrial or inhabit bushes or grass close to the ground, while other species are arboreal. Babblers are chiefly insectivorous, and augment their diet with fruits, seeds and nectar. Arboreal species collect food from leaves, moss, lichen and bark; terrestrial species forage by probing, digging, and tossing aside dead foliage.

Laughingthrushes are medium-sized, long-tailed babblers that are gregarious even in the breeding season. At the first sign of danger, they characteristically break into a concert of loud hissing, chattering and squealing. They often feed on the ground, moving along with long springy hops, rummaging among leaf litter, flicking leaves aside and into the air, and digging for food with their strong bill. Their flight is short and clumsy, the birds flying from tree to tree in follow-my-leader fashion

WHITE-EYES Zosteropidae

Small or very small insectivorous passerines with slightly decurved and pointed bills, brush-tipped tongues, and a white ring around each eye. White-eyes frequent forest, forest edge, and bushes in gardens.

KINGLETS Regulidae

Tiny passerines with bright crown feathers, represented by only one species in the subcontinent, Goldcrest. Typically inhabits the canopy of coniferous forest, frequently hovering to catch insects. Often in mixed feeding parties.

WRENS Troglodytidae

Small, plump, insectivorous passerines with only species in the subcontinent, Winter Wren. Has rather short, blunt wings, strong legs and the tail characteristically held erect.

DIPPERS Cinclidae

Rotund birds with short wings and tails, dippers are adapted for feeding on invertebrates in or under running water. They fly low over the water surface on rapidly whirring wings.

NUTHATCHES AND WALLCREEPER Sittidae

Nuthatches and Wallcreeper are small, energetic, compact passerines with short tails, large strong feet and long bills. The Wallcreeper is adept at clambering over rock faces. Nuthatches are also agile tree climbers. They can move with ease upwards, downwards, sideways and upside-down over trunks or branches progressing by a series of jerky hops. Unlike woodpeckers and treecreepers, they usually begin near the top of a tree and work down the main trunk or larger branches, often head-first, and do not use the tail as a prop. Their flight is direct over short distances, and undulating over longer ones. Nuthatches capture insects, spiders, seeds and nuts. They are often found singly or in pairs; outside the breeding season, they often join foraging flocks of other insectivorous birds.

TREECREEPERS Certhiidae

Small, quiet, arboreal passerines with slender, decurved bills and stiff tails that they use as a prop when climbing, like that of the woodpeckers. Treecreepers forage by creeping up vertical trunks and along the underside of branches, spiralling upwards in a series of jerks in search of insects and spiders; on reaching the top of a tree, they fly to the base of the next one. Their flight is undulating and weak, and is usually only over short distances. Treecreepers are non-gregarious, but outside the nesting season they usually join mixed hunting parties of other insectivorous birds. They inhabit broadleaved and coniferous forest, woodland, groves, and gardens with trees. Thin high-pitched contact calls are used continually.

STARLINGS AND MYNAS Sturnidae

Robust, medium-sized passerines with strong legs and bills, moderately long wings and square tails. The flight is direct; strong and fast in the more pointed-winged species (*Sturnus*), and rather slower with more deliberate flapping in the more rounded-winged ones. Most species walk with an upright stance in a characteristic, purposeful jaunty fashion, broken by occasional short runs and hops. Their calls are often loud, harsh and grating, and the song of many species is a variety of whistles; mimicry is common. Most are highly gregarious at times. Some starlings are mainly arboreal and feed on fruits and insects; others are chiefly ground-feeders, and are omnivorous. Many are closely associated with human cultivation and habitation.

THRUSHES, COCHOAS AND SHORTWINGS Turdidae

Thrushes are medium-sized passerines with rather long, strong legs, slender bills and fairly long wings. On the ground they progress by hopping. All are insectivorous, and many eat fruit as well. Some species are chiefly terrestrial and others arboreal. Most thrushes have loud and varied songs, which are used to proclaim and defend their territories when breeding. Many species gather in flocks outside the breeding season. Cochoas are fairly large, robust, colourful, thrush-like birds with fairly broad bills. Shy, unobtrusive, arboreal and frugivorous.

Shortwings are small chat-like thrushes with short rounded wings, almost square tails and strong legs. They are mainly terrestrial, and inhabit low bushes, undergrowth or thickets. Shortwings are chiefly insectivorous and found singly or in pairs.

CHATS AND OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS Muscicapidae

Chats are a diverse group of small/medium-sized passerines that includes the chats, blue robins, magpie robins, redstarts, forktails, wheatears and rock thrushes. Most are terrestrial or partly terrestrial, some are arboreal, and some are closely associated with water. Their main diet is insects, and they also consume fruits, especially berries. They forage mainly by hopping about on the ground in search of prey, or by perching on a low vantage point and then dropping to the ground on to insects or making short sallies to catch them in the air. Found singly or in pairs.

Flycatchers are small insectivorous birds with small, flattened bills, and bristles at the gape that help in the capture of flying insects. They normally have a very upright stance when perched. Many species frequently flick the tail and hold the wings slightly drooped. Generally, flycatchers frequent trees and bushes. Some species regularly perch on a vantage point, from which they catch insects in mid-air in short aerial sallies or by dropping to the ground, often returning to the same perch. Other species capture insects while flitting among branches or by picking them from foliage. Flycatchers are usually found singly or in pairs; a few join mixed hunting parties of other insectivorous birds.

FAIRY BLUEBIRDS Irenidae

Small to medium-sized passerines with fairly long, slender bills, the upper mandible decurved at the tip. All are arboreal, typically frequenting thick foliage in the canopy. They search leaves for insects and also feed on berries and nectar. Their flight is swift, usually over a short distance. Represented by only one species in the subcontinent, Asian Fairy Bluebird.

LEAFBIRDS Chloropseidae

Medium-sized green and yellow birds with slender downcurved bills. They feed on nectar on flowering trees, fruit and invertebrates.

FLOWERPECKERS Dicaeidae

Flowerpeckers are very small passerines with short bills and tails, and with tongues adapted for nectar-feeding. They usually frequent the tree canopy and feed mainly on soft fruits, berries and nectar; also on small insects and spiders. Many species are especially fond of mistletoe *Loranthus* berries. Flowerpeckers are very active, continually flying about restlessly, and twisting and turning in different attitudes when perched, while calling frequently with high-pitched notes. Normally they live singly or in pairs; some species form small parties in the non-breeding season.

SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS Nectariniidae

Sunbirds have bills and tongues adapted to feed on nectar; they also eat small insects and spiders. The bill is long, thin and curved for probing the corollas of flowers. The tongue is very long, tubular and extensible far beyond the bill, and is used to draw out nectar. Sunbirds feed mainly at the blossoms of flowering trees and shrubs. They flit and dart actively from flower to flower, clambering over the blossoms, often hovering momentarily in front of them, and clinging acrobatically to twigs. Sunbirds usually keep singly or in pairs, although several may congregate in flowering trees, and some species join mixed foraging flocks. They have sharp, metallic calls and high-pitched trilling and twittering songs.

Spiderhunters are small, robust arboreal forest birds with very long decurved bills. Very active with fast dashing flight. Usually found singly or in pairs. Feed on nectar and small invertebrates.

SPARROWS, PETRONIAS AND SNOWFINCHES Passeridae

Small passerines with thick, conical bills. This family includes *Passer*, the true sparrows, some of which are closely associated with human habitation and *Petronia*, the rock sparrows, which inhabit dry rocky country or light scrub. Most species feed on seeds, taken on or near the ground. The *Passer* sparrows are rather noisy, using a variety of harsh, chirping notes; the others have more varied songs and rather harsh calls. Snowfinches have distinctive white patches in their plumage and inhabit barren alpine areas. They are almost entirely terrestrial in feeding habits. Outside the breeding season they gather in large flocks.

WEAVERS Ploceidae

Small, rather plump, finch-like passerines with large, conical bills. Adults feed chiefly on seeds and grain, supplemented by invertebrates; the young are often fed on invertebrates. Weavers inhabit grassland, marshes, cultivation and very open woodland. They are highly gregarious, roosting and nesting communally, and are noted for their elaborate roofed nests

AVADAVATS AND MUNIAS Estrildidae

Small, slim passerines with short, stout, conical bills. They feed chiefly on small seeds, which they pick up from the ground or gather by clinging to stems and pulling the seeds directly from seed heads. Their gait is a hop or occasionally a walk. Outside the breeding season all species are gregarious. Flight is fast and undulating.

ACCENTORS Prunellidae

Small, compact birds resembling *Passer* sparrows in appearance, but with more slender and pointed bills. Accentors forage quietly and unobtrusively on the ground, moving by hopping or in shuffling walk; some species also run. In summer accentors are chiefly insectivorous, and in winter they feed mainly on seeds. Their flight is usually low over the ground and sustained only over short distances.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS Motacillidae

Small, slender, terrestrial birds with long legs, relatively long toes and thin, pointed bills. Some wagtails exhibit wide geographical plumage variation. All walk with a deliberate gait and run rapidly. The flight is undulating and strong. Most wagtails wag the tail up and down, and so do some pipits. They feed mainly by picking insects from the ground as they walk along, or by making short rapid runs to capture insects they have flushed; they also catch prey in mid-air. Song flights are characteristic of many pipits.

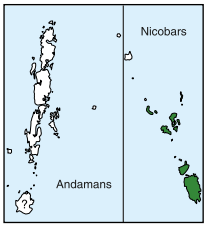
Both wagtails and pipits call in flight, and this is often a useful identification feature. They are usually found singly or in pairs in the breeding season and in scattered flocks in autumn and winter.

FINCHES Fringillidae

Small to medium-sized passerines with strong, conical bills used for eating seeds. They forage on the ground; some species also feed on seedheads of tall herbs, and blossoms or berries of bushes and trees. Finches are highly gregarious outside the breeding season. Their flight is fast and undulating.

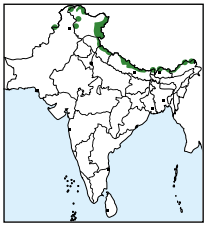
BUNTINGS Emberizidae

Small to medium-sized, terrestrial passerines with strong, conical bills designed for shelling seeds, usually of grasses; adults also eat insects in summer. They forage by hopping or creeping on the ground. Their flight is undulating. Buntings are usually gregarious outside the breeding season, feeding and roosting in flocks. Buntings occur in a wide variety of open habitats.



Nicobar Megapode *Megapodius nicobariensis* 43 cm

Resident. Nicobars. **ID** Robust with very large legs and feet, and crested appearance. Chestnut-brown upperparts, cinnamon-brown to brownish-grey underparts, and bare red facial skin. Immature has bare facial skin restricted to lores and around eye. **Voice** Male's territorial call is *kyouououou-kyou-kou-koukoukoukoukou*, rising in pitch on the first note and gradually decreasing on the staccato series; contact call is a cackling *kuk-a-kuk-kuk*. **HH** Partly nocturnal. Forest undergrowth by sandy beaches. Globally threatened.



Snow Partridge *Lerwa lerwa* 38 cm

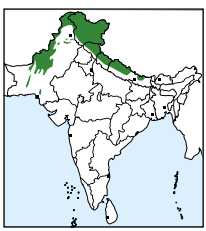
Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Has head, neck, upper breast and upperparts finely vermiculated dark brown and white, and with a chestnut wash. Underparts are heavily streaked with chestnut. Bill, legs and feet are red. Shows a narrow white trailing edge to wings in flight, blackish primaries and finely barred tail. **Voice** Has a loud, harsh and frequently repeated whistle. **HH** When disturbed, plunges downhill with much wing clattering. High-altitude steep rocky and grassy slopes with dwarf scrub.

Tibetan Snowcock *Tetraogallus tibetanus* 51 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** From Himalayan Snowcock by prominent white or buffish patch on ear-coverts offset against grey of head and neck, double band of grey across upper breast (absent, or just a single band, on some birds), white underparts with broad black flank stripes, and whitish fringes to coverts and scapulars. In flight, wing pattern is very different, Tibetan showing only a small amount of white in primaries but extensive white in secondaries. Also has chestnut coloration on rump and uppertail-coverts. **Voice** Similar to Himalayan's: a subdued chuckling becoming louder and reaching a climax, a whistle and a call reminiscent of Eurasian Curlew. **HH** Habits similar to Himalayan's. High-altitude rocky slopes and ridges and alpine meadows.

Himalayan Snowcock *Tetraogallus himalayensis* 54–72 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Distinguished from Tibetan by broad dark chestnut stripes down sides of neck which join to form band across upper breast, greyish-white breast (variably barred with black) contrasting strongly with dark grey underparts; strong contrast between pale grey nape/mantle and dark grey back. In flight, Himalayan shows extensive white in primaries but little or no white in secondaries, and greyish coloration on rump and uppertail-coverts. **Voice** Makes a far-carrying inflected whistle ending on two shorter, rising whistled notes, *cour-lee-whi-whi* repeated at intervals, and reminiscent of Eurasian Curlew; also a *chok, chok, chok* which often accelerates into a rapid chatter. **HH** High-altitude rocky slopes and ridges and alpine meadows.



Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* 38 cm

Resident. Pakistan hills and Himalayas. **ID** A stocky, medium-sized partridge. Has black stripe through eye which extends to form black gorget, encircling creamy-white throat; broad chestnut and black rib-like bars on flanks, and bright red bill and legs. Displays rufous corners to tail in flight. **Voice** Utters a rapidly repeated *chuck, chuck-aa*; when flushed, an anxious 'rolled together' *chuck, chuck, chuck*. **HH** Open, arid rocky hills, barren hillsides with scattered scrub, grassy slopes, stony ravines and dry terraced cultivation.

See-See Partridge *Ammoperdix griseogularis* 26 cm

Resident. Pakistan. **ID** Lacks black throat gorget of Chukar. Bill orange and legs/feet yellowish. Shows rufous tail in flight. Male has white eye-stripe, black supercilium and horizontal chestnut and black flank stripes. Female rather plain with cream supercilium and throat, grey flecking on neck, and pinkish-buff and grey vermiculations on mantle and breast. **Voice** Gives a distinctive and far-carrying *wuii div, wuii div* and also *wuid-wuit*; flight call is a fast *bwuit-bwuit-bwuit*. **HH** Active in early morning and at dusk. Dry rocky foothills with light scrub, sand dunes and cultivation edges.

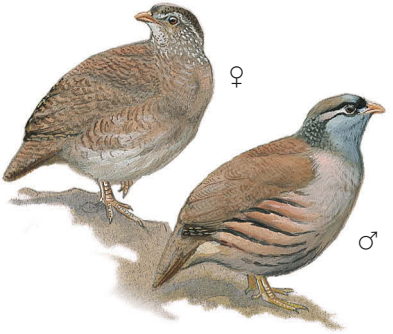
Nicobar Megapode

Snow Partridge

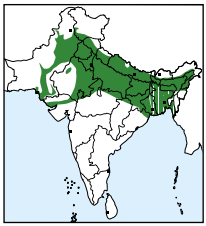
Tibetan Snowcock

Himalayan Snowcock

Chukar Partridge

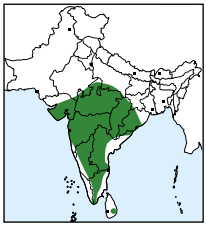


See-see Partridge



Black Francolin *Francolinus francolinus* 34 cm

Resident. N subcontinent. **ID** Male has black face with white ear-covert patch, rufous collar, and black underparts with white spotting on flanks. Female from female Painted Francolin by rufous hind neck, dark stripe behind eye, streaked (rather than spotted) appearance to mantle, and dark-barred rather than white-spotted appearance to underparts (although underparts can be similar to Painted). Shows blackish tail in flight. **Voice** Utters a loud, penetrating, repeated, harsh *kar-kar, kee, ke-kee*. **HH** Requires good ground cover and water close by. Active early morning and late afternoon. Cultivation, tea estates, tall grass and scrub in plains and hills.

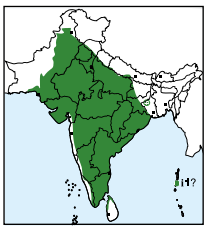


Painted Francolin *Francolinus pictus* 31 cm

Resident. Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Sexes similar, with rather plain, rufous-orange face (and often throat), and bold white spotting on upperparts and underparts. Vent rufous (pale in Grey Francolin). Shows blackish tail in flight. **Voice** Gives a *click... cheek-cheek-keray,* almost indistinguishable from Black's. **HH** Very skulking and if disturbed will squat in cover. Tall thick grassland and cultivation with scattered trees and bushes; open forest; partial to thick cover.

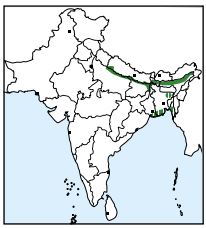
Chinese Francolin *Francolinus pintadeanus* 33 cm

Resident. Manipur. **ID** Male striking with orange-buff sides of crown, white ear-coverts and throat divided by black moustachial stripe, rufous scapulars, and extensive white spotting on underparts. Female similar, but less strikingly marked and upperparts browner and heavily barred. Shows blackish tail in flight. **Voice** A loud, harsh metallic, repeated *wi-ta-tak-takaa*. **HH** Very skulking and remains under cover. Dry open dipterocarp forest and oak scrub in hills.



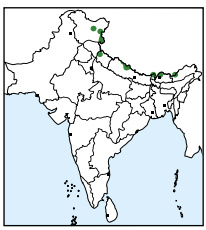
Grey Francolin *Francolinus pondicerianus* 33 cm

Widespread resident in lowlands and low hills; unrecorded in northeast. **ID** Rather plain buffish face, and buffish-white throat with fine necklace of dark spotting. Finely barred upperparts and underparts. Shows rufous tail in flight. The nominate subspecies of S peninsular India and Sri Lanka has a buffish-orange coloration to face and throat, and has darker, more chestnut coloration to upperparts and breast, compared with northern subspecies *F. p. interpositus* and *F. p. mecranensis* (which are paler and greyer, and have a whiter throat). **Voice** Makes a rapidly repeated *khateeja-khateeja-khateeja*; also softer, more whistling *kila-kila-kila*, and a high, whirring *khirr-khirr*. **HH** Dry open grass plains and thorn scrub, often near dry cultivation, and stony semi-desert.



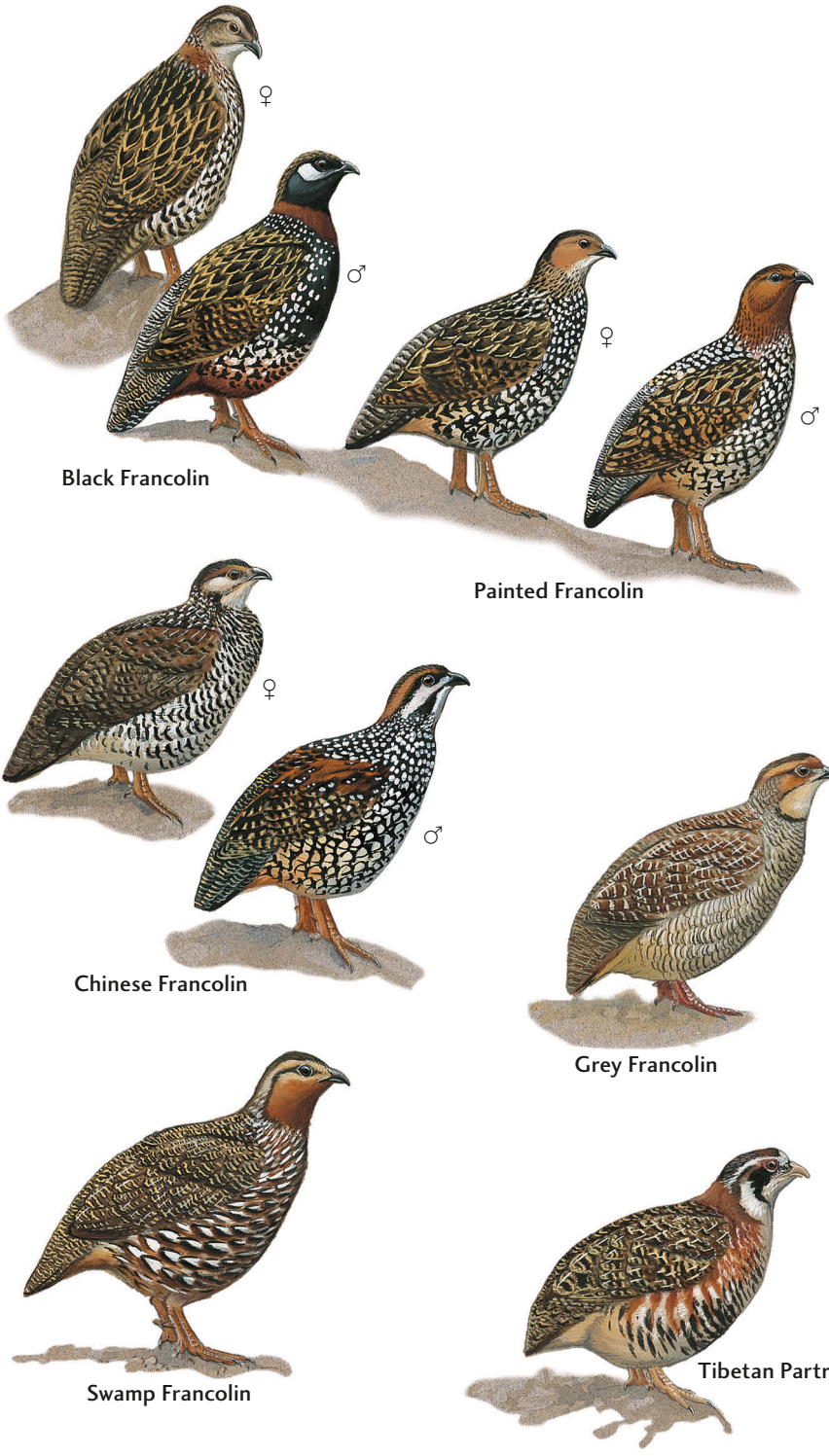
Swamp Francolin *Francolinus gularis* 37 cm

Resident. From Nepal east to Assam. **ID** Rufous-orange throat, buff supercilium and cheek-stripe (separated by dark eye-stripe), finely barred upperparts, and bold white streaking on underparts. Sexes similar. Shows rufous primaries and tail in flight. **Voice** Utters a loud *kew-care* when alarmed, occasional *qua, qua, qua* ascending in tone, and a harsh *chukeroo, chukeroo, chukeroo* preceded by several chuckles and croaks. **HH** In marshes often wades or climbs on to reeds in deep water. Tall wet grassland and swamps; also adjacent sugarcane fields. Globally threatened.



Tibetan Partridge *Perdix hodgsoniae* 31 cm

Resident. N Himalayas. **ID** Black patch on white face, rufous sides to neck, and black and rufous barring on underparts (with variable black patch on belly). *P. h. caraganae* of the NW Himalayas has paler rufous-orange collar and is paler overall compared with the nominate subspecies. **Voice** Gives a rattling and repeated *scherrrrreck-scherrrrreck*; when flushed a shrill *chee, chee, chee, chee*. **HH** When disturbed runs fast uphill, calling loudly. High-altitude semi-desert and rocky slopes with scattered dwarf scrub.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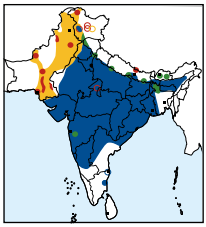
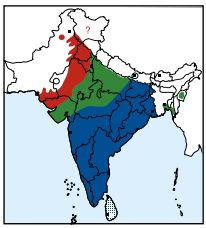


Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* 20 cm

Mainly winter visitor and passage migrant, also resident. Widespread in north. **ID** Male has black 'anchor' mark on throat and buff gorget, although head pattern is variable and black anchor lacking in some. Some males have rufous face and throat, with or without black anchor (and are thus very similar to Japanese Quail). Female has less striking head pattern and lacks black anchor; probably indistinguishable from female Japanese. **Voice** Song is a far-carrying *whit, whit-tit* repeated in quick succession. **HH** Secretive. If flushed rises rapidly with whirring wing-beats and brief glides on downturned wings, plunging into cover again. In breeding areas males sing persistently in early morning, evening, and sometimes during the day. Crops, paddy stubbles and grassland.

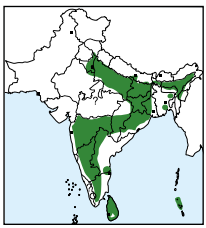
Japanese Quail *Coturnix japonica* 20 cm

Winter visitor, probably breeds. Bhutan. **ID** Breeding male has rufous face and throat, with suggestion of dark anchor mark in some; patterning of throat in non-breeding male and female much as Common and probably indistinguishable in the field. In non-breeding plumage both sexes have pointed and elongated throat feathers, forming short 'beard'. **Voice** Best told from Common Quail by very different song: explosive, rasping, unmusical and often loud, barked *churck-chur-rr* repeated at *c.*10 second intervals. **HH** Habits like those of Common Quail. Crops and grassland.



Rain Quail *Coturnix coromandelica* 18 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Male similar in appearance to male Common, but has more strongly marked head pattern, variable black breast patch and streaking on flanks, and cinnamon sides to neck and breast. Female smaller than female Japanese and Common; with unbarred primaries. **Voice** Utters a loud, metallic and high-pitched *whit-whit* repeated in runs of 3–5 calls. **HH** Habits similar to Common Quail's. During breeding season in the monsoon can be heard frequently throughout the day. Crops, grassland, grass and scrub jungle.

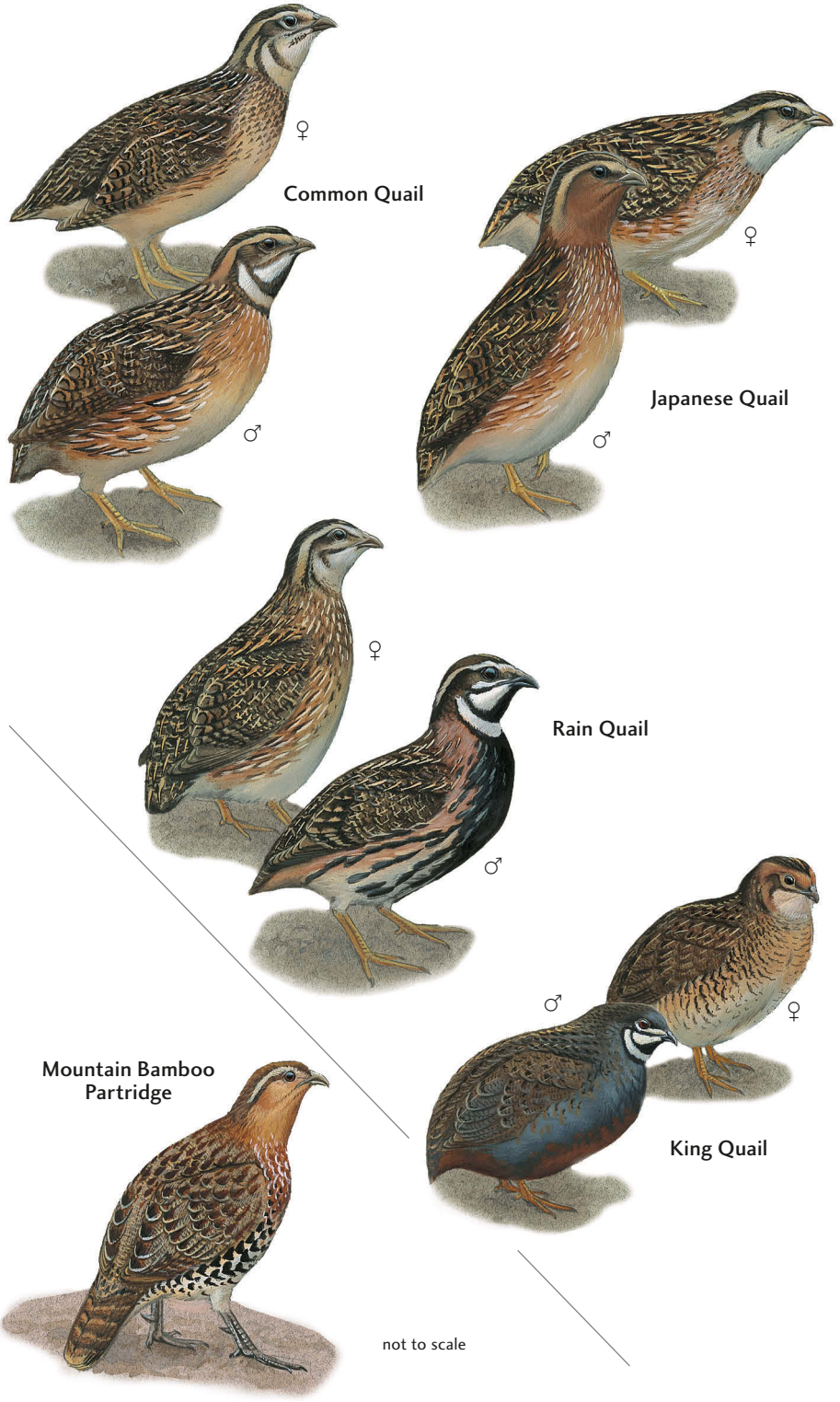


King Quail *Coturnix chinensis* 14 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in northwest. **ID** Small size. Male has black-and-white patterned throat, slaty-blue flanks, and chestnut belly. Female similar to other *Coturnix* quails but noticeably smaller, with rufous-buff forehead and supercilium, barred breast and flanks, and more uniform upperparts. **Voice** Typical call is a high-pitched series of two or three descending piping notes, *ti-yu* or *quee-kee-kew*. **HH** Habits similar to Common's. Wet grassland, marshes, paddy-field edges and scrub. **AN** Blue-breasted Quail.

Mountain Bamboo Partridge *Bambusicola fytchii* 35 cm

Resident. NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Long tail, chestnut spotting on breast and upperparts, blackish spotting on flanks, and buffish supercilium. Male has blackish eye-stripe. Shows rufous in primaries and sides of tail in flight. **Voice** Similar call to Black Francolin but less shrill and high-pitched: *che-chirree-che-chirree, chiree, chiree, chiree*. Males are very noisy in spring, calling from a mound or tree stump. **HH** Shy, coming into the open to feed only in early mornings and evenings. Difficult to flush, flies rapidly a short distance before landing again in dense grass or trees. Thick grass; scrub in foothills.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Common Quail
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Japanese Quail
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Rain Quail
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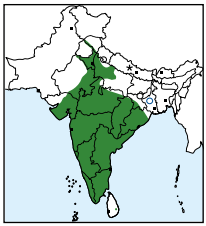
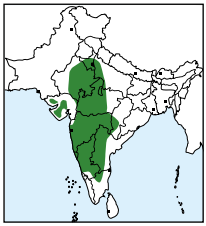
King Quail
Mountain Bamboo
Partridge

not to scale



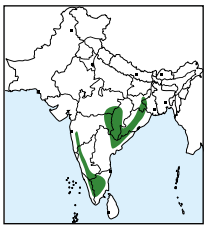
Jungle Bush Quail *Perdicula asiatica* 17 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Male has barred underparts, rufous-orange throat and supercilium (with supercilium edged above and below with white), white moustachial stripe, brown ear-coverts, and orange-buff vent. Female has vinaceous-buff underparts, with head pattern similar to male. **Voice** Makes a harsh grating *chee-chee-chuck, chee-chee-chuck*. **HH** Found in coveys of up to 20 birds outside the breeding season. Uses a network of runs through the grass to move in single file between feeding grounds. Birds in a covey bunch up and squat low before suddenly bursting into flight in all directions with a loud whirring of wings. Dry grass and scrub and deciduous forest; chiefly on dry and stony ground.



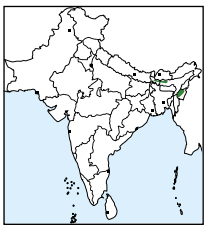
Rock Bush Quail *Perdicula argoondah* 17 cm

Resident. C and W India. **ID** Male has barred underparts and vinaceous-buff ear-coverts and throat; lacks white moustachial stripe. Female has vinaceous-buff underparts, including throat and ear-coverts, and whitish supercilium. Head pattern of female much plainer, and upperparts more uniform, than in female Jungle. **Voice** As Jungle. **HH** Habits as Jungle. Dry rocky and sandy areas with thorn scrub in plains and foothills.



Painted Bush Quail *Perdicula erythrorhyncha* 18 cm

Resident. Mainly Western and Eastern Ghats. **ID** Black spotting on upperparts and flanks, and red bill and legs. Male has white supercilium and throat, and black chin and mask. Female has rufous supercilium, ear-coverts and throat. **Voice** Male's breeding call is a pleasant triple *kirikee, kirikee*. **HH** Habits similar to those of Jungle Bush Quail. Keeps in coveys of up to 15 birds for most of the year. Forages in more open areas in mornings and evenings. Often dust-bathes at edges of tracks. Scrub, often interspersed with cultivation in plains and foothills.

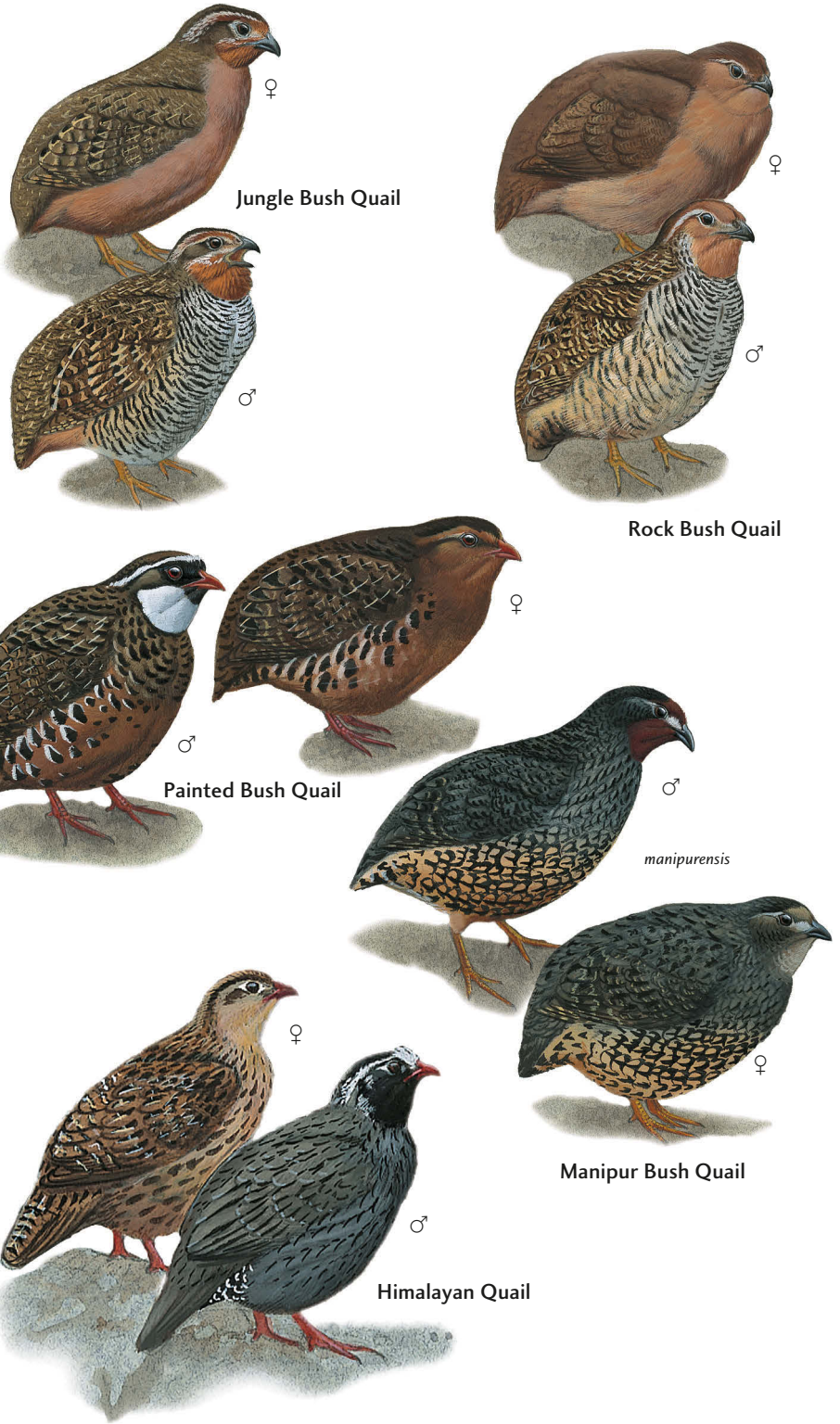


Manipur Bush Quail *Perdicula manipurensis* 20 cm

Resident. NE India. **ID** White eye-patch, dark olive-grey upperparts, and golden-buff underparts with black cross-shaped markings. Male has chestnut forehead and throat, which are brownish-grey on female. *P. m. inglisi* (north of Brahmaputra River) is paler, greyer and less boldly marked with black than nominate. **Voice** A clear, softly whistled *whit-it-it-it-t-t*, with each successive note slightly higher in tone. **HH** Habits similar to those of Jungle Bush Quail. Keeps in parties of 6–8 birds. Very secretive and stays in dense cover; most easily located by its distinctive call. Tall moist grassland and scrub in foothills; also swamps. Globally threatened.

Himalayan Quail *Ophrysia superciliosa* 25 cm

W Himalayas in India. **ID** Red bill and legs/feet. Both sexes with white marks in front of and behind eye. Male with black-and-white patterned head, including white supercilium and patch on ear-coverts. Body brownish-slate, streaked with black, with white-barred undertail-coverts. Female with greyish-cinnamon supercilium, ear-coverts and throat, broken by brown eye-stripe. Body cinnamon-brown, marked with black. Tail rather long, broad and rounded. **Voice** A shrill whistle when disturbed. **HH** Kept in coveys of 6–12 birds. Rarely left thick cover and were very reluctant to take flight, preferring to run in and out between grass stalks. If flushed, birds flew slowly and heavily, soon dropped into vegetation and reunited by using shrill whistles. Long grass and brushwood on steep slopes. Globally threatened. Considered probably extinct.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Jungle Bush Quail
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manipurensis
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Manipur Bush Quail
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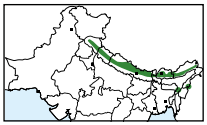
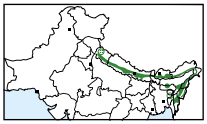
♂
Himalayan Quail



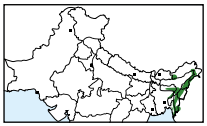
Hill Partridge *Arborophila torqueola* 28 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Male from Rufous-throated Partridge by rufous crown and ear-coverts, black eye-patch and eye-stripe, white neck sides streaked with black, and white collar. Female lacks rufous crown and white collar of male. From Rufous-throated by pale lores and buff supercilium, black barring on mantle, and lacks black border between rufous-orange foreneck and grey breast. Legs and feet are dark (red in other *Arborophila* partridges). **Voice** A mournful drawn-out whistle, followed by double whistles. **HH** Undergrowth of dense broadleaved forest.



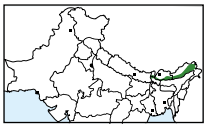
Rufous-throated Partridge *Arborophila rufogularis* 27 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Best told from Hill by greyish-white supercilium, diffuse white moustachial stripe, unbarred mantle, black border between rufous-orange foreneck and grey breast, and reddish legs and feet. *A. r. intermedia*, occurring east and south of Brahmaputra River, has brighter orange foreneck, black throat, and lacks black border to breast. **Voice** A mournful double whistle, *wheea-whu*, repeated constantly and on ascending scale. **HH** Thick understorey of broadleaved forest and secondary growth.



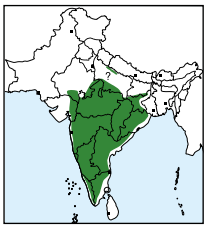
White-cheeked Partridge *Arborophila atrogularis* 28 cm

Resident. E Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** White supercilium and cheeks, black mask and throat, barred upperparts, black-streaked orange-yellow hind neck, and absence of rufous streaking on flanks. **Voice** Accelerating and ascending series of 12–18 far-carrying, throaty *whew* notes, ending abruptly. **HH** Bamboo thickets and forest undergrowth.



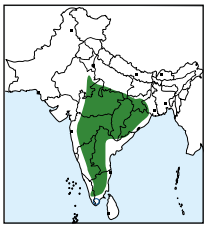
Chestnut-breasted Partridge *Arborophila mandellii* 28 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and Assam. **ID** From other *Arborophila* by combination of greyish supercilium, white collar, black-streaked rufous-orange ear-coverts and throat, and chestnut breast. **Voice** Gives a repetition of *prrreet*, followed by a series of *prr prr-er-it* notes, ascending to a climax. **HH** Dense undergrowth in broadleaved forest. Globally threatened.



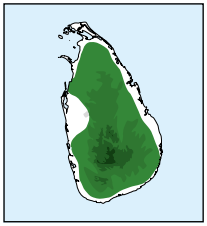
Red Spurfowl *Galloperdix spadicea* 36 cm

Resident. India. **ID** Red facial skin and legs/feet. Male of nominate has brownish-grey head and neck and darker brown crown, rufous upperparts and underparts scaled with grey and buff, and brownish-black unbarred tail. Female of nominate has browner head and neck, buffish-brown upperparts with bold blackish markings, rufous underparts with irregular blackish barring, and buff barring on tail. Male *stewarti* of Kerala is deeper chestnut-red than nominate. Male *caurina* of Rajasthan and parts of Gujarat is paler and less rufous than nominate; female has paler, more rufous-brown upperparts, which lack bold black mottling of female nominate. **Voice** Male has Grey Junglefowl-like crowing *ku-ruk-ku-rak* and an erratic, nervous cackling *kuk-kuk-ku-tuk*. **HH** Dense scrub bamboo thickets and secondary growth.



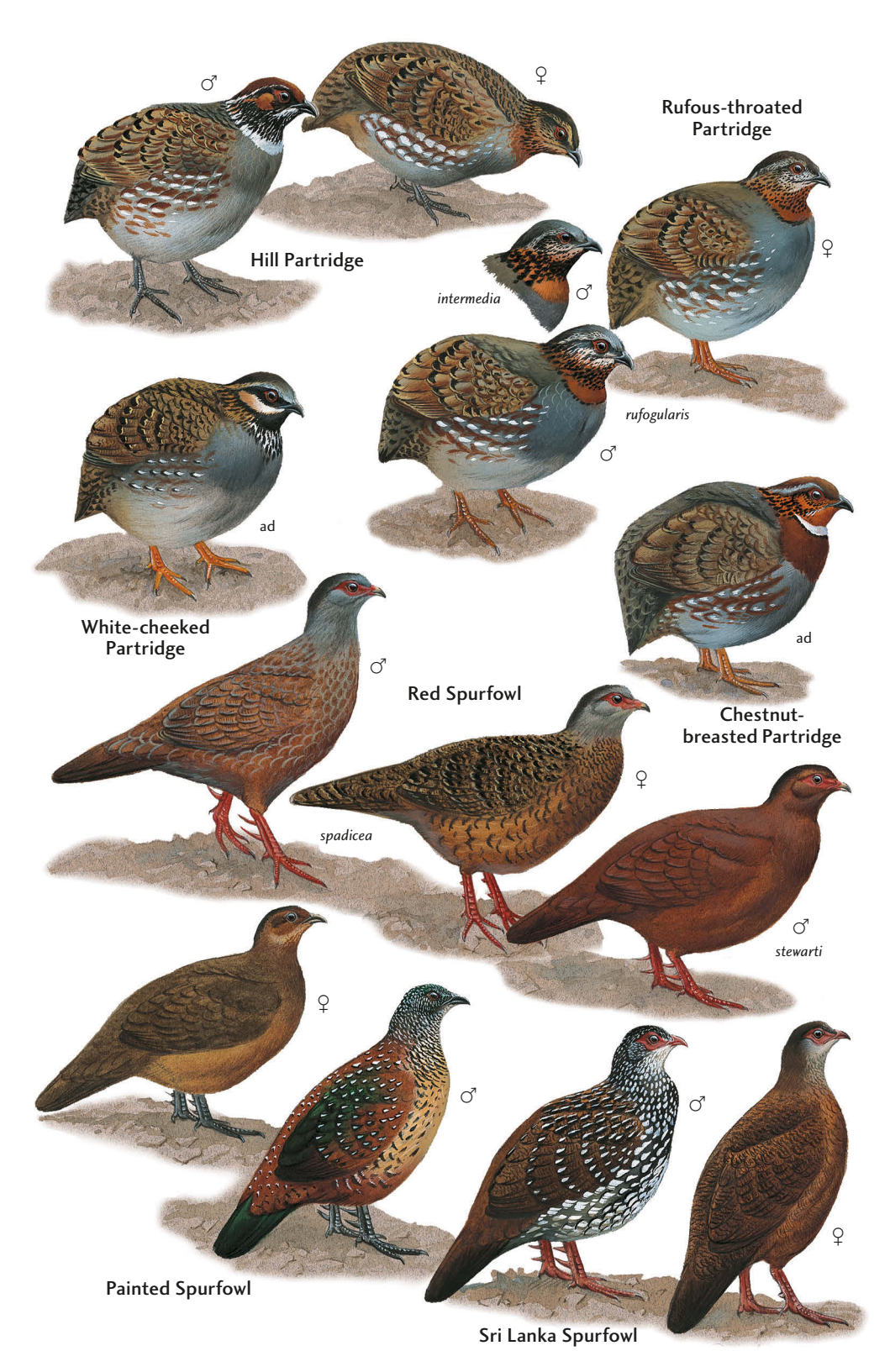
Painted Spurfowl *Galloperdix lunulata* 32 cm

Resident. India. **ID** Dark bill and legs/feet. Male has greenish-black head and neck barred with white, chestnut-red upperparts and yellowish-buff underparts with spotting and barring. Female from female Red Spurfowl by dark olive-brown upperparts and breast (becoming paler brownish-buff on lower breast and belly); buff throat and malar stripe; chestnut forehead, supercilium and ear-coverts; absence of red facial skin, and dark legs and feet. **Voice** A fowl-like cackling; also a loud, rapidly repeated *chur, chur, chur*. **HH** Thorn scrub or bamboo thickets.



Sri Lanka Spurfowl *Galloperdix bicalcarata* 34 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Red facial skin and legs/feet. Male is boldly streaked and spotted with white; back and rump are chestnut and tail black. Female has chestnut upperparts with blackish vermiculations, rufous underparts, and dark brown crown and whitish chin and throat. **Voice** A ringing series of trisyllabic whistles, each series on a higher note than the preceding one, and last dropping suddenly to the starting note. **HH** Tall, undisturbed, dense forest.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Hill Partridge
Rufous-throated Partridge
intermedia
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rufogularis
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White-cheeked Partridge
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Chestnut-breasted Partridge
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Red Spurfowl
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Painted Spurfowl
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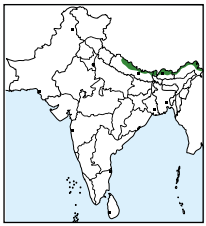
Sri Lanka Spurfowl

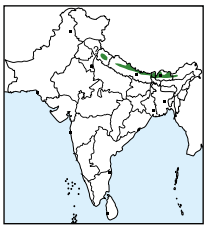


Blood Pheasant *Ithaginis cruentus* 38 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Crested head, and red orbital skin and legs/feet. Male has blood-red throat, grey upperparts streaked with white, and greenish underparts, and plumage is splashed with red. Female has grey crest and nape, rufous-orange face, dark brown upperparts, and rufous-brown underparts. Subspecies variation is marked; males vary in patterning of red and black on head, and in extent of red on underparts. **Voice** A repeated *chuck*, and a loud, grating *kzeeuk-cheeu-cheeu-chee*. **HH** High altitude shrubberies and forest.

Western Tragopan *Tragopan melanocephalus* M 68–73 cm, F 60 cm

Resident. W Himalayas. **ID** Male has flame-orange foreneck, whites-spottted blackish underparts, red hind neck, large white spots on uppertail-coverts, and red facial skin. Female from female Satyr Tragopan by dark grey-brown (rather than rufous) coloration to underparts, and reddish orbital skin. Immature male has dull brownish-red hind neck, and more uniformly grey upperparts and underparts with fewer, smaller white spots. White-spotted grey underparts help separate from immature Satyr. **Voice** A nasal, wailing repeated *khuwaah*. **HH** Dense undergrowth in temperate and subalpine forest. Globally threatened.



Satyr Tragopan *Tragopan satyra* M 67–72 cm, F 57.5 cm

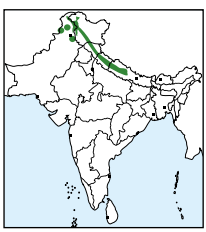
Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Male has red underparts with black-bordered white spots, and olive-brown coloration to upperparts including rump and uppertail-coverts. Facial skin is blue. Female varies from rufous-brown to ochraceous-brown in coloration; wings, tail and underparts are generally brighter and more rufescent than on other female tragopans. Orbital skin bluish. Immature male is more like female, but with black on head, and red on neck, upper mantle and breast. **Voice** A repeated deep, wailing drawn-out call *wah, waah! oo-ah! oo-aaaaa!* rising in volume and becoming more protracted; also a *wah, wah*. **HH** Dense undergrowth in temperate and subalpine forest.

Blyth's Tragopan *Tragopan blythii* M 65–70 cm, F 58 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Male has orange-yellow facial skin, sandy-grey breast and belly, brownish ocelli on upperparts, and red uppertail-coverts with bold whitish spots. Female from female Satyr by paler underparts lacking strong rufous tone, and from female Temminck's by paler underparts with less distinct white spotting. Immature male like imm. male Satyr but with yellow facial skin, reddish uppertail-coverts, and uniform brownish-grey underparts (lacking white spots). *T. b. molesworthi* (NE Himalayas) differs from *T. b. blythii* (NE India, south of Brahmaputra R) in having a narrower band of red across breast and being paler, with more uniform sandy-grey underparts. **Voice** A deep *mao, mao*. **HH** Thick undergrowth in broadleaved forest. Globally threatened.

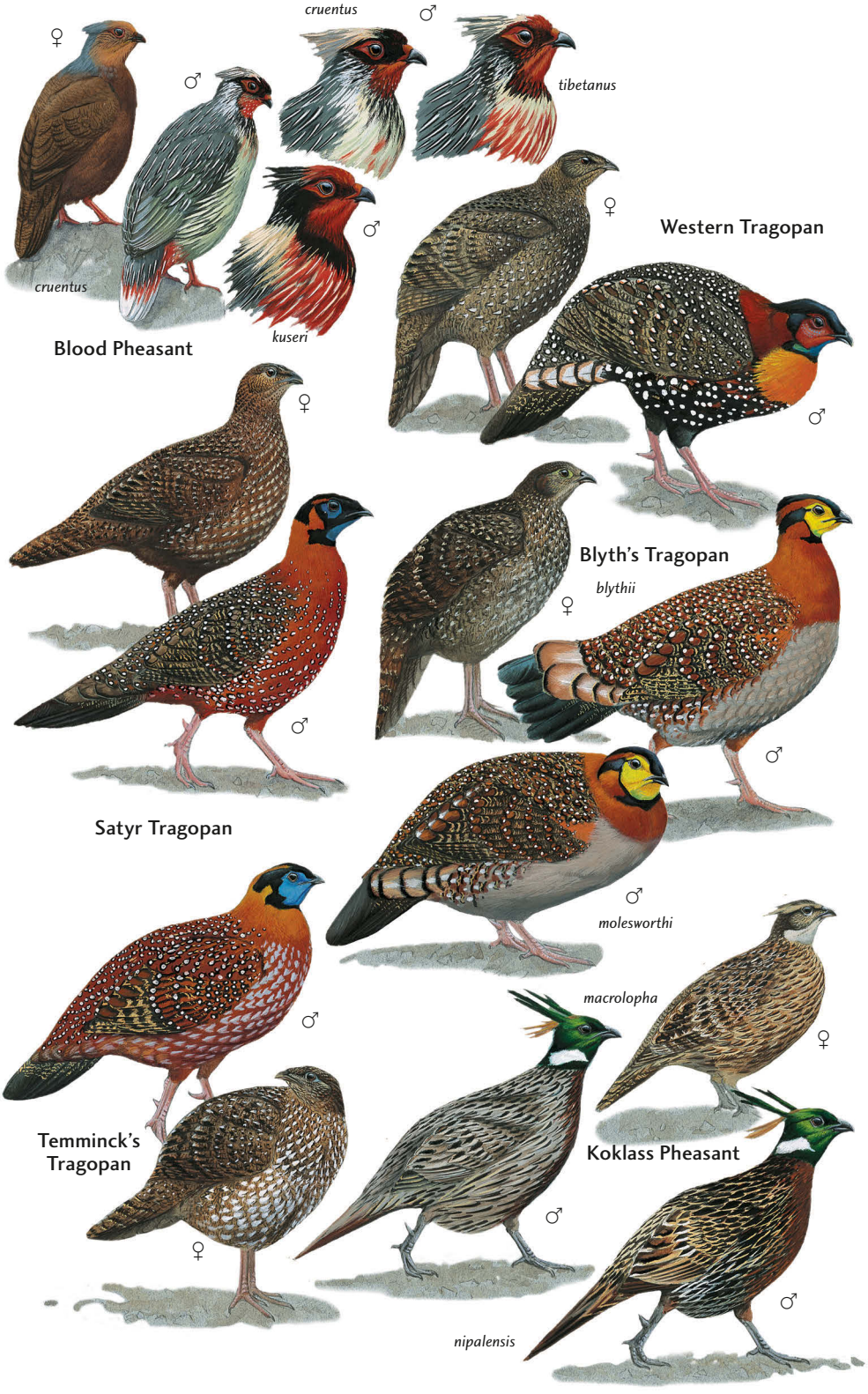
Temminck's Tragopan *Tragopan temminckii* M 64 cm

Resident. E Himalayas in Arunachal Pradesh. **ID** Male from male Satyr by larger, greyish drop-shaped spotting (without black borders) on red underparts, brighter orange-red neck, mainly red upperparts with black-bordered greyish-white spotting, and more extensive blue facial skin. Female more conspicuously spotted with white on underparts than other female tragopans, and lacks the strong rufous tones of female Satyr. Immature male is very similar to immature male Satyr, but has more prominent wedge-shaped white spotting on underparts. **Voice** A series of moaning notes, gradually increasing in length and volume, terminated by a nasal grumbling note: *woh... woah... woah... waah... waah... waah... waah... griiiik*. **HH** Dense undergrowth in temperate and subalpine forest.



Koklass Pheasant *Pucrasia macrolopha* M 58–64 cm, F 52.5–56 cm

Resident. W Himalayas. **ID** Male has bottle-green head and ear-tufts, chestnut on breast, and streaked appearance to body. Female has white throat, short buff ear-tufts, and streaked body. Both sexes have wedge-shaped tail. Males of *P. m. castanea* and *biddulphi* (W Himalayas) have chestnut on hind neck and upper mantle, are mainly chestnut on breast and belly, and have blackish flanks (streaked with white). Males of *P. m. macrolopha* and *nipalensis* (C Himalayas) have less chestnut in plumage (restricted to centre of breast and belly); mantle and sides of breast are pale grey (streaked with black) in *macrolopha* and black (streaked with buff) in *nipalensis*. **Voice** A far-carrying and loud *kok, kark, kuk... kukuk*. **HH** Dense undergrowth in temperate and subalpine forest.


cruentus
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tibetanus
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cruentus
kuseri
Blood Pheasant
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Western Tragopan
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Blyth's Tragopan
blythii
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Satyr Tragopan
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molesworthi
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Temminck's Tragopan
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macrolopha
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Koklass Pheasant
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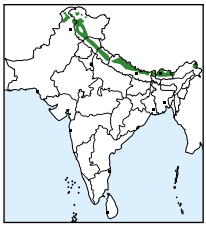
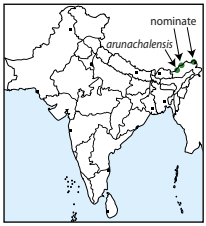
♂
nipalensis



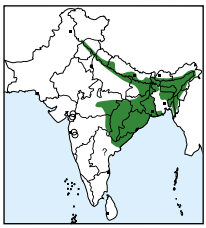
Himalayan Monal *Lophophorus impejanus* M 70 cm, F 63.5 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Male is iridescent green, copper and purple, with small white patch on back and cinnamon-brown tail, and spatulate-tipped crest. Female has pale streaking on underparts, prominent white throat, short crest, and bright blue orbital skin. In flight, shows whitish 'horseshoe' on uppertail-coverts, and narrow white tip to tail. **Voice** A series of upward-inflected whistles, *kur-leiu* or *kleeh-vick*, alternated with a higher-pitched *kleeh*; reminiscent of snowcocks and Eurasian Curlew. In alarm *kleeh-wick-kleeh-wick*, alternating with *kwick-kwick*. **HH** Summers on steep rocky and grass-covered slopes; winters in broadleaved and coniferous forests.



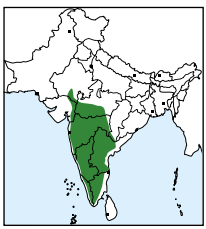
Sclater's Monal *Lophophorus sclateri* M 68 cm, F 63 cm

Resident. E Himalayas in Arunachal Pradesh. **ID** Male from Himalayan Monal by tufted crest, larger area of white on lower back and rump/uppertail-coverts, and white-tipped or entirely white tail. Female is similar to female Himalayan, but lacks crest, has pale lower back and rump, broader white terminal band to tail, darker underparts lacking bold splashes of greyish-white, yellowish bill, and indistinct whitish throat. Nominate male (E. Arunachal) has cinnamon tail with broad white tip; *arunachalensis* (W. Arunachal) has white tail; intermediates occur. **Voice** A repeated shrill, harsh, plaintive cry in alarm; also a wild ringing whistle. **HH** Dense undergrowth in fir forest. Globally threatened.



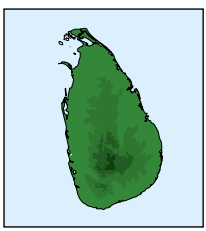
Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* M 65–75 cm, F 42–46 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE and E India, and Bangladesh. **ID** Male has rufous-orange hackles, blackish-brown underparts, rufous wing panel, white tail-base, and long greenish-black, sickle-shaped tail. There is an eclipse plumage, after the summer moult, when the hackles are replaced by short, dark brown feathers, and the central tail feathers are lacking. Female has 'shawl' of elongated (edged golden-buff, black-centred) feathers, rufous head, and naked reddish face. Immature male much duller than adult male; hackles less developed (with black centres); lacks elongated central tail feathers. **Voice** Male's loud *cock-a-doodle-doo* is very similar to a crowing domestic cockerel; both sexes make cackling and clucking notes. **HH** Forest undergrowth and scrub.



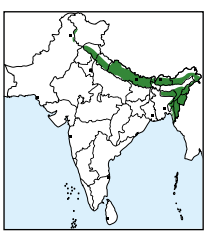
Grey Junglefowl *Gallus sonneratii* M 70–80 cm, F 38 cm

Resident. Peninsular India. **ID** Male has 'shawl' of white and pale golden-yellow spotting; band of golden-yellow spotting on scapulars, grey underparts, and long sickle-shaped, purplish-black tail. Eclipse male has shorter, brownish-black neck hackles, and shorter tail. Female is similar to Red Junglefowl, but has buffish face, bold white streaking on underparts, and yellowish (rather than greyish) legs. Immature male resembles adult male, but has much-reduced 'shawl' of yellowish-white spotting, smaller comb and wattles, and has shorter tail. **Voice** A distinctive, repeated, loud, staccato *kuk-ka-kurruk-ka*. **HH** Forest undergrowth, secondary growth and bamboo thickets.



Sri Lanka Junglefowl *Gallus lafayetii* M 66–72.5 cm, F 35 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Only junglefowl occurring naturally in Sri Lanka (although beware domestic hens). Male has orange-red breast and belly, yellow centre to oblong-shaped comb, and purplish-black wings. There is no distinct eclipse plumage. Female similar to female Red Junglefowl, but has black scaling on white underparts, and prominent buff barring in wings. Immature male has rufous-orange head and neck, deep rufous coloration to body, and poorly developed comb and wattles. **Voice** Cock's crow is a staccato, musical ringing *chiok, chaw-choyik*, the terminal *ik* higher in scale; hen's cackle is a high-pitched metallic *kwikkuk kwikkukkuk*. **HH** Large forest areas.



Kalij Pheasant *Lophura leucomelanos* M 65–73 cm, F 50–60 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Both sexes have red facial skin and downcurved tail. Male has blue-black upperparts, and variable amounts of white on rump and underparts. Female varies from dull brown to reddish-brown, with greyish-buff fringes producing scaly appearance. Marked subspecies variation with males varying in colour of crest and underparts and extent of pale barring to upperparts. **Voice** A loud, whistling chuckle or *chirrup;* guinea-pig-like squeaks and chuckles when flushed. **HH** All forest types with dense undergrowth.

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Sclater's Monal
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Kalij Pheasant
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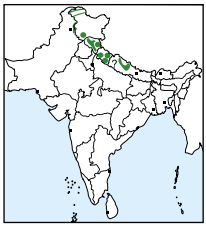
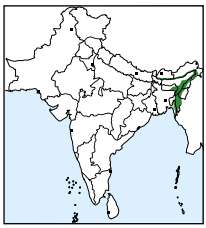


Cheer Pheasant *Catreus wallichii* M 90–118 cm, F 61–76 cm

Resident. W Himalayas. **ID** Long, broadly barred tail, pronounced crest, and red facial skin. Male is more cleanly and strongly marked than female, with pronounced barring on mantle, unmarked neck, rufous rump, and broader barring across tail. Female is browner above, more heavily barred on breast, and has grey-brown rump. **Voice** Utters a far-carrying, loud *chir-a-pir, chir-a-pir, chir, chir chirwa, chirwa*. Also dusk and pre-dawn high piercing whistles, *chewewoo*, interspersed with short *chut* calls and short staccato notes. **HH** Keeps in coveys of five outside breeding season. Extremely wary and skulking. Steep hillsides with scrub and stunted trees and wooded ravines or with some scrub and grass cover; secondary growth. Globally threatened.

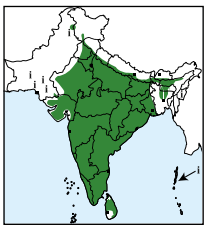
Mrs Hume's Pheasant *Syrmaticus humiae* M 90 cm, F 60 cm

Resident. NE India. **ID** Male is chestnut and blue-black, with white banding along scapulars and across wings, and has greyish rump and long greyish tail that is narrowly banded with chestnut and black. Female is mainly grey-brown (marked with black) on upperparts, and pale rufous-brown (barred with buff) on underparts. Has suggestion of greyish band along scapulars, and narrow whitish wing-bars. Tail is shorter than male's; tail feathers are tipped with white and outer tail feathers are mainly chestnut. **Voice** Gives repeated cackling *waaak* notes; also a sharp *tuk tuk* and loud screech in alarm. **HH** Steep rocky slopes with open oak and pine forest, and long grass and bushes.



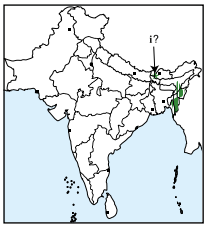
Grey Peacock Pheasant *Polyplectron bicalcaratum* M 64 cm, F 48 cm

Resident. E Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Greyish with white throat and long, broad tail. Male has prominent purple and green ocelli, particularly on wing-coverts and tail; tail is long and broad, and has short tufted crest. Female and immature male are smaller and browner, with shorter tail and smaller and duller ocelli. **Voice** Makes a deep guttural *hoo*, rapidly repeated about seven times and soft chuckling notes; also an *ok-kok-kok-kok*. **HH** Keeps singly, in pairs or family groups. Rarely seen and almost impossible to flush. Dense undergrowth in tropical and subtropical moist, broadleaved evergreen and semi-evergreen forest.



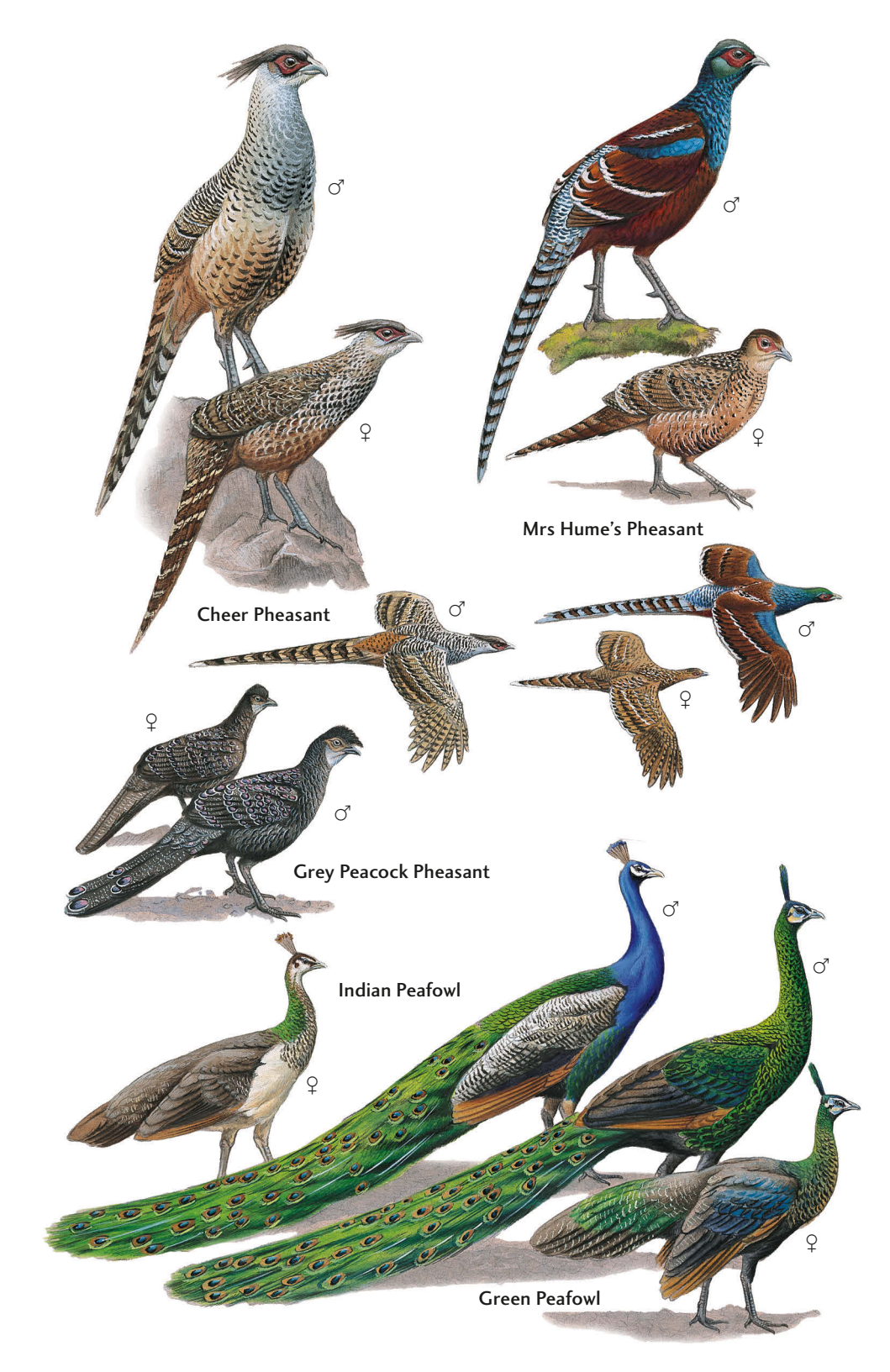
Indian Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* M 180–230 cm, F 90–100 cm

Resident. India, SE Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Bhutan. **ID** Male has blue neck and breast, and spectacular glossy green train of elongated uppertail-covert feathers with numerous ocelli. Female lacks train; has whitish face and throat, bronze-green neck, brown upperparts and white belly. Primaries of female are brown (chestnut in male). First-year male lacks train and is similar to female, but head and neck are usually blue, and primaries are chestnut with dark brown mottling. Second-year male more closely resembles adult male but has a short train, which lacks ocelli and is barred with green and brown. Length of train increases until fifth or sixth year. **Voice** Trumpeting, far-carrying and mournful *kee-ow, kee-ow, kee-ow*. Also series of short, gasping screams, *ka-an... ka-an... ka-an*, repeated 6–8 times, and *kok-kok* and *cain-kok* when alarmed. **HH** Gregarious. Roosts in tall trees. Emerges from dense thickets in early mornings and afternoons to feed. In the wild state inhabits undergrowth in deciduous forest near streams; where semi-feral found in villages and cultivation.



Green Peafowl *Pavo muticus* M 180–300 cm, F 100–110 cm

Former resident? NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male has erect tufted crest, and is mainly green, with long green train of elongated uppertail-covert feathers with numerous ocelli. Female lacks long train, otherwise similar to male, but upperparts are browner. **Voice** Male has very loud, far-carrying *ki-wao* or *yee-ow* often repeated. Female gives loud *aow-aa* with emphasis on first syllable, often repeated with short intervals. **HH** Habits similar to those of Indian, but extremely shy and generally does not emerge into forest clearings and edges. Dense forest near streams and clearings. Globally threatened.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Indian Peafowl
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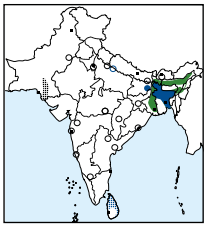
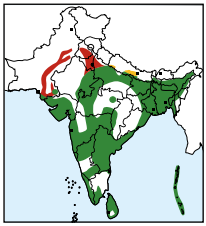
Green Peafowl



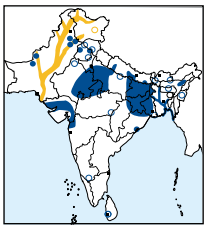
Fulvous Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna bicolor* 51 cm

Resident. Mainly NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Larger than Lesser Whistling-duck, with bigger, squarer head and larger bill. Adult from adult Lesser by warmer rufous-orange head and neck, dark blackish line down hind neck, dark striations on neck, more prominent streaking on flanks, indistinct chestnut-brown patch on forewing, and white band across uppertail-coverts. Often associates with Lesser. **Voice** Very noisy in flight and at rest; a repeated whistle *k-weeoo*. **HH** Freshwater marshes, flooded paddy-fields, and shallow lakes and ponds with emergent vegetation and partly submerged trees.



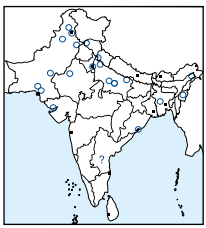
Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica* 42 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Smaller and more neatly proportioned than Fulvous. Like Fulvous, has rather weak, deep-flapping flight, appears very dark on the upperwing and underwing, and is very noisy with repeated whistling. From Fulvous by greyish-buff head and neck, dark brown crown, lack of well-defined dark line down hind neck, bright chestnut patch on forewing, and chestnut uppertail-coverts. **Voice** Incessant wittering call in flight; a rest, a clear whistled *whi-whee*, also a subdued quacking. **HH** Flooded grassland and paddy-fields, freshwater marshes and shallow ponds and lakes, prefers those with emergent vegetation and partly submerged trees.



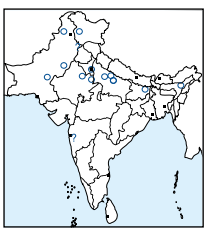
Greylag Goose *Anser anser* 75–90 cm

Winter visitor. N subcontinent. **ID** Large, grey goose, with stout pink bill and pink legs and feet. Juvenile is similar to adult, but has less prominent pale fringes to upperparts, flanks and belly. Shows pale grey forewing in flight. Feeds chiefly by grazing, mainly at night; rests on large lakes, rivers and open fields by day. **Voice** Utters loud cackling and honking, deeper than in other 'grey' geese with repeated deep *aahng-ahng-ung*. **HH** Wet grassland and crops, lakes and large rivers.



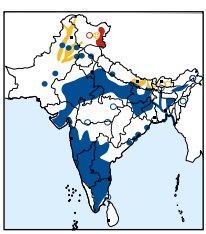
Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* 66–86 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan, N India and Bangladesh. **ID** Adult best told from Greylag by broad white band at front of head, browner coloration, black barring on belly, and orange legs and feet. Has more uniform upperwing in flight, darker back and rump and darker base to tail than Greylag. Juvenile lacks white frontal band and barring on belly; is more similar to Greylag, and best told by smaller size and less stocky build, browner coloration, darker feathering at base of bill, dark tip (nail) to bill, and orange legs and feet. **Voice** Cackling and honking flight call is higher-pitched than Bean Goose's (see Appendix) and contains distinctive musical *lyo-lyok* phrase. **HH** Habits similar to Greylag's. Large rivers and lakes.



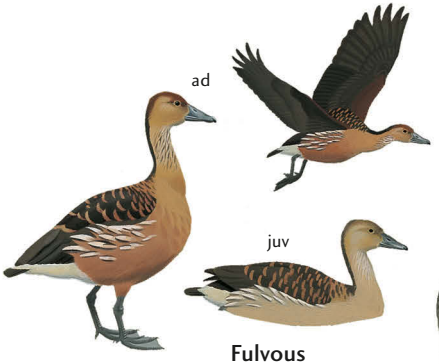
Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus* 53–66 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan and N India. **ID** Adult distinguished from Greater by half-moon white frontal band on head (white typically extending as point at front of crown), and yellow eye-ring. Has slightly darker head and neck, and less extensive black barring on belly. Also has 'squarer' head, with more steeply rising forehead, and is smaller and more compact, with stout triangular bill. Juvenile lacks white frontal band and black barring on belly, and is best distinguished from juvenile Greater by yellow eye-ring, slightly darker head and neck, and structural differences described above. **Voice** Call is similar to Greater although higher pitched and includes repeated *kyu-yu-yu* phrase. **HH** Habits similar to Greylag's. Wet grassland and lakes. Globally threatened.

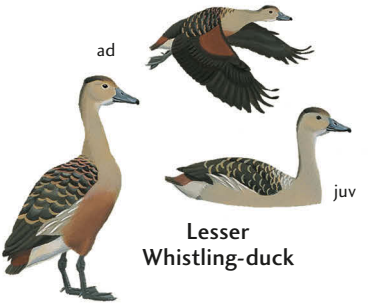


Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* 71–76 cm

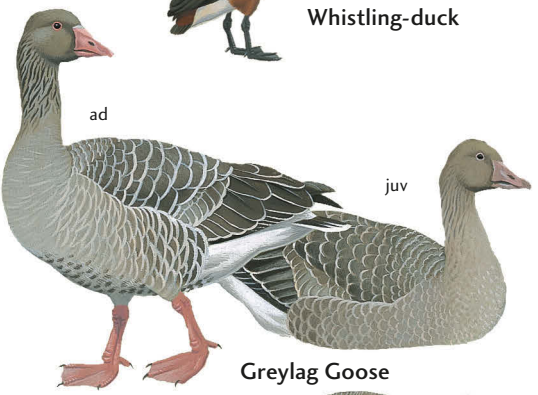
Breeds in Ladakh; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Yellowish legs and black-tipped yellow bill. Adult has white head with black banding across crown, and white line down grey neck. Juvenile has white face and dark grey crown and hind neck. Plumage paler steel-grey, with more uniform pale grey forewing compared with Greylag. **Voice** Has honking flight call, but notes more nasal and more slowly uttered compared to Greylag. **HH** Feeds mainly at night in cultivation or grassland on river banks; roosts by day on sandbanks of large rivers. Breeds on swampy ground by high-altitude lakes; winters near large rivers, lakes and reservoirs; also coastal islands in the Sunderbans, Bangladesh.



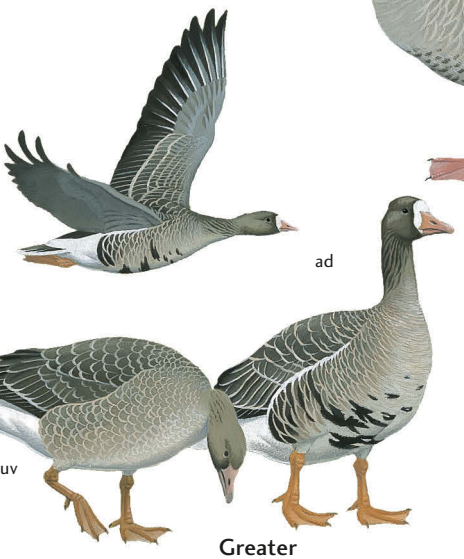
Fulvous
Whistling-duck



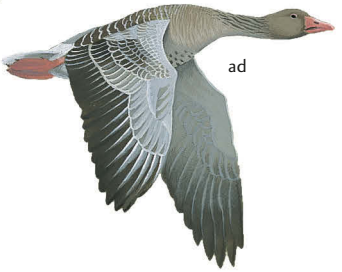
Lesser
Whistling-duck



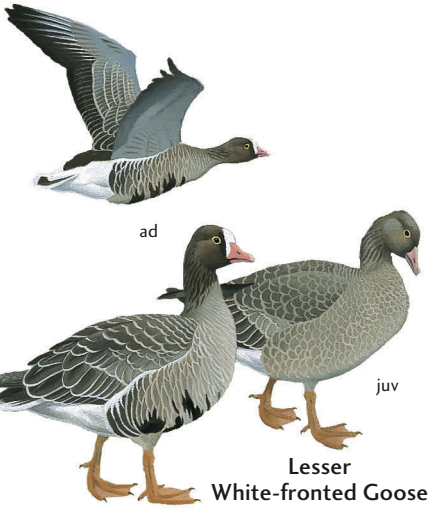
Greylag Goose



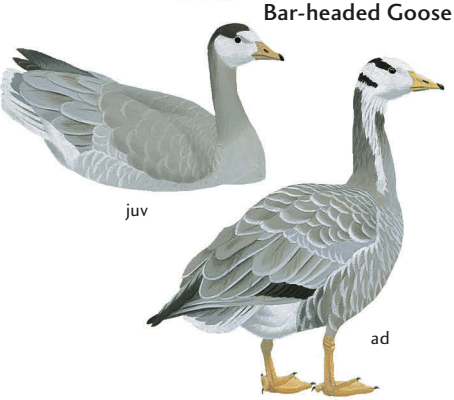
Greater
White-fronted Goose

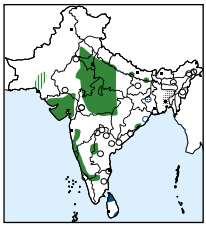


Bar-headed Goose



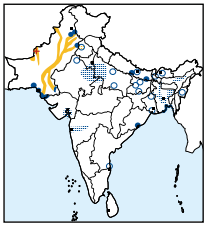
Lesser
White-fronted Goose





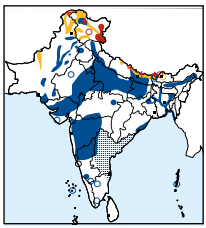
Knob-billed Duck *Sarkidiornis melanotos* 56–76 cm

Resident. Widespread in India, also Nepal lowlands and Bangladesh. **ID** Whitish head, speckled with black, and whitish underparts with incomplete narrow breast-band. Upperwing and underwing blackish. Male has blackish upperparts glossed with bronze, blue and green, with fleshy 'comb' at base of bill and yellowish-buff wash to sides of head and neck in summer; comb much reduced in winter. Female much smaller with duller upperparts and no comb. Juvenile has pale supercilium contrasting with dark crown and eye-stripe, buff scaling on upperparts, and rufous-buff underparts with dark scaling on sides of breast. **HH** Grazes in marshes and wet grassland, also dabbles in shallows. Lowland pools and lakes in well-wooded country. **AN** Comb Duck.



Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* 58–67 cm

Has bred Baluchistan; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Adult has greenish-black head and neck, and largely white body with chestnut breast-band and black scapular stripe. White upperwing- and underwing-coverts contrast with black remiges in flight. Female slightly smaller than male, has narrower chestnut breast-band and lacks knob on bill. Adult eclipse duller and greyer, with less distinct breast band. Juvenile lacks breast-band and has sooty-brown crown, hind-neck and upperparts, and white forehead, cheeks, foreneck and underparts. Flight pattern similar to adult (though less contrasting), but shows white trailing edge to secondaries. **HH** Dabbles on mud or upends in shallows. Open freshwater lakes and rivers; also coasts and salt lakes in Pakistan.

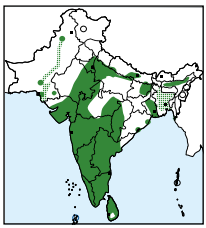


Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* 61–67 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Rusty-orange, with buff to orange head; white upperwing- and underwing-coverts contrast with black remiges in flight. Breeding male has black neck-collar, which is less distinct or absent in non-breeding plumage. Female very similar to male, but lacks neck-collar and often has diffuse whitish face patch. Juvenile as female, but with browner and duller upperparts and underparts, and greyish tone to head. **HH** Usually feeds by grazing on banks of rivers and lakes; also by wading in shallows, dabbling and upending. Breeds around high-altitude lakes and swamps; winters by large open lakes and rivers, especially with sandbanks and sandy islets.

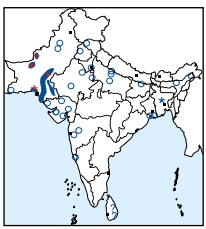
White-winged Duck *Asarcornis scutulata* 66–81 cm

Resident. NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Large size. White upperwing- and underwing-coverts, and white head variably speckled with black. Head, neck and breast can be mainly white on some. Sexes similar, although female duller with more heavily speckled head. Juvenile similar to female, although duller and browner, with brownish head. **HH** Flies to feeding grounds at dawn; roosts in forest trees at night. Small stagnant and slow-flowing freshwater wetlands, often with dead trees, in tropical forest. Globally threatened. **TN** Formerly placed in *Cairina*.



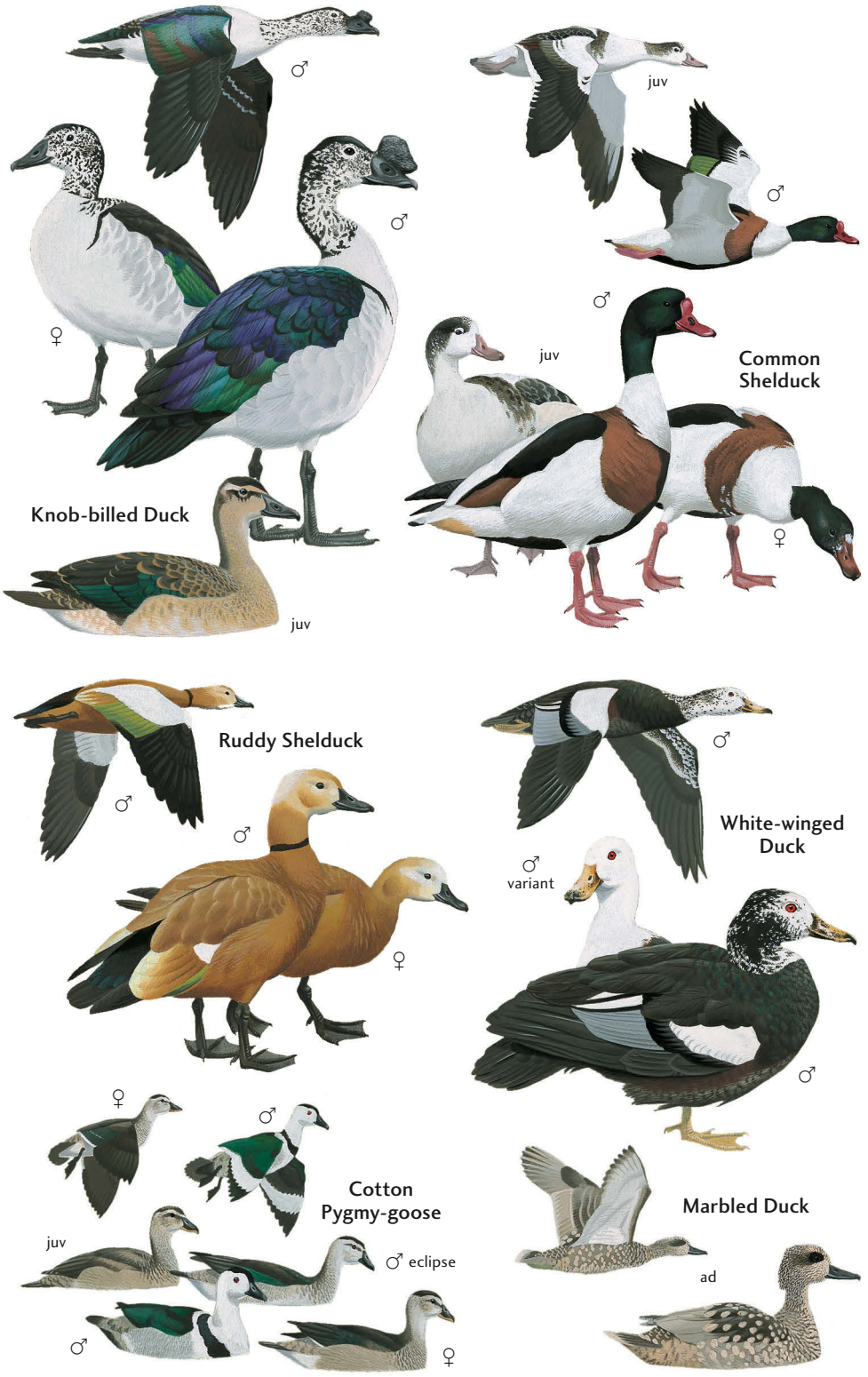
Cotton Pygmy-goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* 30–37 cm

Widespread resident. Small size. **ID** Male has broad white band across wing, and female has white trailing edge to wing. Male has white head and neck, black cap, greenish-black upperparts, and black breast-band. Eclipse male, female and juvenile are duller and have dark stripe through eye. **HH** Feeds chiefly by grazing in marshes and wet grasslands; also by wading and dabbling in shallows. Perches readily in trees. Vegetation-covered pools, irrigation tanks, channels and shallow lagoons.



Marbled Duck *Marmaronetta angustirostris* 39–42 cm

Breeds in Pakistan; winter visitor mainly to N India. **ID** Adult is pale sandy-brown with shaggy hood, dusky grey mask through eye, and diffuse white spotting on upperparts and underparts. In flight, has whitish underwing, rather uniform upperwing with pale brown coverts and greyish flight feathers. Juvenile similar to adult, but is more diffusely spotted and lacks shaggy hood. **HH** Feeds mainly by dabbling in shallow water; rather shy and secretive. Shallow freshwater lakes and ponds with extensive emergent vegetation. Globally threatened.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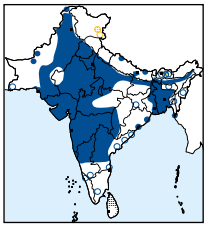
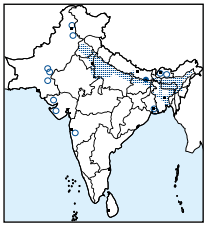


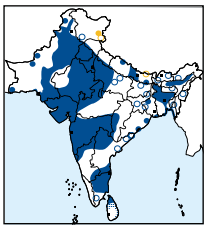
Gadwall *Anas strepera* 39–43 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** White patch on inner secondaries in all plumages (although can be indistinct in female); lacking metallic speculum shown by Mallard. Male is mainly grey, with white belly and black rear end; bill is dark grey. Female similar to larger female Mallard; orange sides to dark bill, clear-cut white belly and white inner secondaries are best features. Eclipse male is similar to female, but has more uniform grey upperparts and pale grey (rather than blackish-grey) tertials, and upperwing pattern of breeding male. **HH** Feeds mainly by dipping head into shallow water; sometimes also by upending. Usually shy and wary. Freshwater marshes and lakes with extensive aquatic and emergent vegetation.



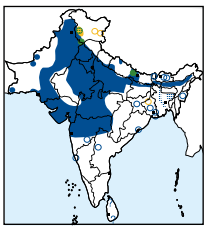
Falcated Duck *Anas falcata* 48–54 cm

Winter visitor. N subcontinent. **ID** Male has bottle-green head with maned hind neck, elongated black-and-grey tertials, and black-bordered yellow patch at sides of vent; shows pale grey forewing in flight. Female has rather plain greyish head (with maned appearance), a dark bill, and greyish-white fringes to exposed tertials; shows greyish forewing and white greater-covert bar in flight, but does not show striking white belly. Eclipse male is similar to female, but has dark crown, hind neck and upperparts, and pale grey forewing. **HH** Feeds mainly by dabbling and upending; usually keeps close to emergent vegetation. Lakes and large rivers.



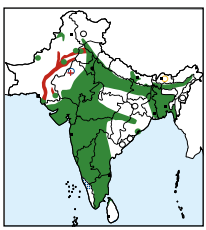
Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* 45–51 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Male has yellow forehead and forecrown, chestnut head, and pinkish breast; shows white forewing in flight. Female has rather uniform brownish head, breast and flanks. In all plumages, shows white belly and rather pointed tail in flight. Eclipse male is similar to female, but is more rufous on head and breast, and has white forewing. **Voice** Male has distinctive whistled *wheeooo* call. **HH** Highly gregarious. Feeds chiefly by grazing on waterside grasslands and in wet paddy-fields; also found on open lakes, reservoirs, rivers, pools, marshes, tidal creeks and saltmarshes.



Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* 50–65 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; widespread winter visitor. In all plumages, has white-bordered purplish speculum. Male has yellow bill, dark green head and purplish-chestnut breast, mainly grey body, and black rear end. Female is pale brown and boldly patterned with dark brown. Bill variable, patterned mainly in dull orange and dark brown. Eclipse male is similar to female, but with (less heavily marked) rusty brown breast, blackish (glossed green) crown and eye-stripe, and uniform olive-yellow bill. **HH** Gathers in flocks of up to 40–50 birds. Where hunted, rests by day on large open waterbodies and feeds at night. Often flights at dusk to flooded paddy-fields and marshes where feeds by dabbling. Freshwater marshes, reed-edged lakes.

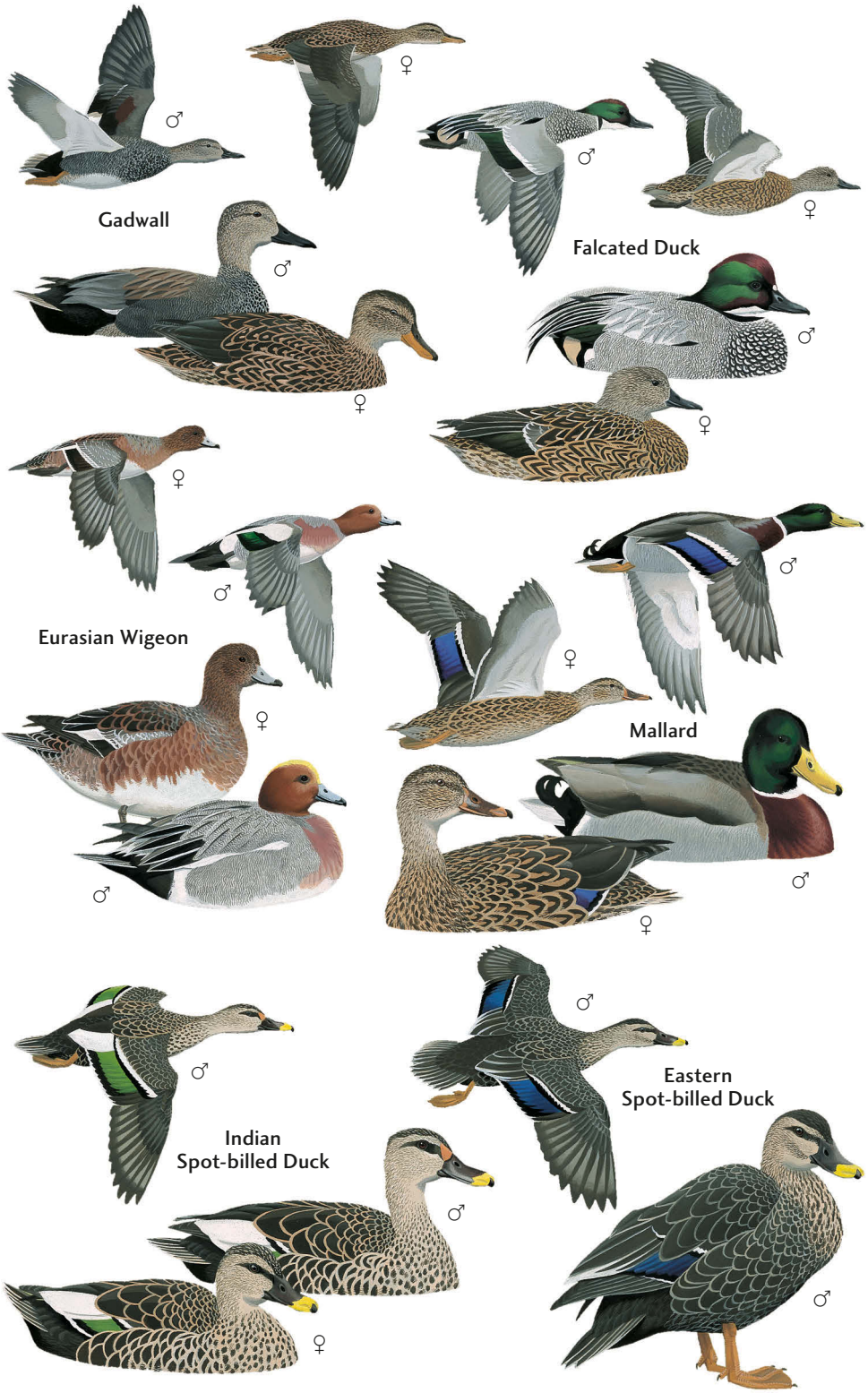


Indian Spot-billed Duck *Anas poecilorhyncha* 58–63 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Has yellow-tipped black bill, greyish-white head and neck with black crown and eye-stripe, blackish spotting on breast, white scalloping on flanks, and largely white tertials. In flight, wings appear dark except for white on tertials and white underwing-coverts. Male has prominent red loral spot and is more strongly marked than female and juvenile (the red loral spot is less conspicuous on female and lacking on juvenile). **HH** Habits similar to Mallard's. Freshwater marshes, lakes, irrigation tanks, and pools with extensive emergent vegetation.

Eastern Spot-billed Duck *Anas zonorhyncha* 53 cm

Visitor to NE India. From Indian Spot-billed by lack of red loral spot, diffusely marked breast, more uniform sooty-black upperparts and flanks, blue (rather than green) speculum, dark grey tertials (with whitish fringes), and dusky bar across cheeks. **HH** Similar habitat to Indian Spot-billed's and habits similar to Mallard's. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Indian Spot-billed Duck *A. poecilorhyncha*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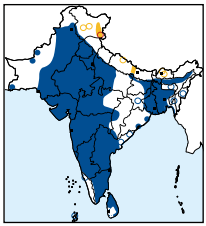
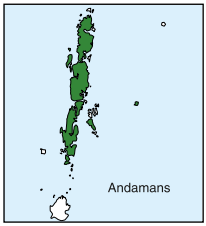


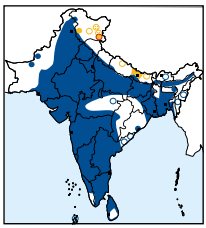
Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* 44–52 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Long spatulate bill and bluish forewing. Male has dark green head, white breast, chestnut flanks, and blue forewing. Female recalls female Mallard in plumage, but has greyish-blue forewing and lacks prominent white trailing edge. Eclipse male recalls female, but is more rufous-brown, especially on flanks and belly, and has upperwing pattern of breeding male. In sub-eclipse resembles breeding male, but has black scaling on breast and flanks and whitish facial crescent between bill and eye. **HH** Often feeds by sweeping the bill from side to side while swimming. All types of shallow fresh waters.



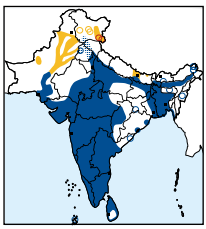
Sunda Teal *Anas gibberifrons* 37–47 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Compared with other teal species, has comparatively large head and slim neck; male has pronounced forehead. Brown, with variable white markings on head, and spotted underparts. Bill bluish. Typically has white throat and eye-patch, but occasionally head and neck are largely white, and juvenile has more uniform head, with whitish eye-ring and only slightly paler throat. In flight, shows white axillaries and broad white band across greater coverts. **HH** Feeds mainly at night, by grazing in wet paddy-fields; roosts by day in mangroves or coastal rocks. Freshwater pools and marshes; tidal creeks and paddy-fields.



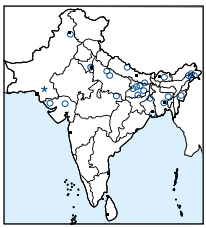
Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* 51–56 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Long neck and pointed tail. Male has chocolate-brown head, with white stripe down sides of neck. Female has comparatively uniform buffish head, slender grey bill, and (as male) shows white trailing edge to secondaries and greyish underwing in flight. Eclipse male resembles female, but has grey tertials, and bill pattern and upperwing pattern as breeding male. **HH** Forages at night and early morning and evening in marshes and flooded paddy-fields; roosts by day on open waters with aquatic vegetation, freshwater marshes, brackish lagoons, and estuaries.



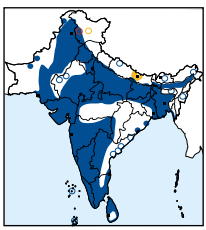
Garganey *Anas querquedula* 37–41 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Male has white stripe behind eye, and brown breast contrasting with grey flanks; shows blue-grey forewing in flight. Female has more patterned head than female Common Teal, with pale supercilium, whitish loral spot, pale line below dark eye-stripe, dark cheek-bar, and whiter throat; in flight shows prominent white belly, pale grey forewing and broad white trailing edge to wing. Eclipse male is similar to female, but has upperwing pattern of breeding male. **HH** Usually shy, keeping among emergent vegetation. Freshwater wetlands and coastal lagoons.



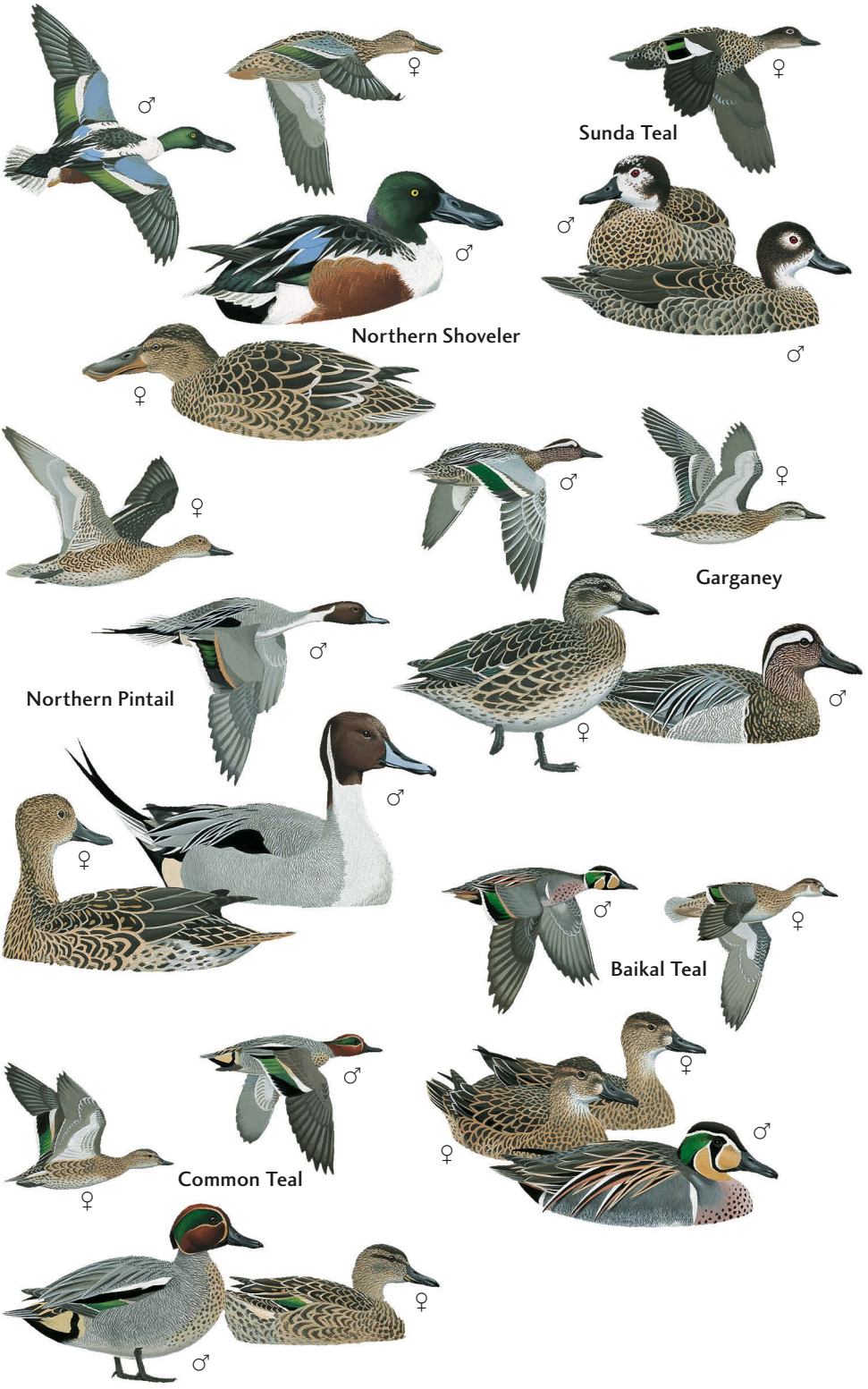
Baikal Teal *Anas formosa* 39–43 cm

Winter visitor. N subcontinent. **ID** Male has striking head pattern, black-spotted pinkish breast, white vertical stripe down sides of breast, black undertail-coverts, and chestnut-edged scapulars. Female has complex (although variable) head pattern: typical birds show dark-bordered white loral spot, buff supercilium broken above eye by dark crown, and white throat which curves up to form half-moon-shaped cheek-stripe. Both sexes have grey forewing and broad white trailing edge to wing in flight (recalling Northern Pintail). **HH** Eclipse male is similar to female, but has darker and more rufous fringes to mantle, rufous breast and flanks, and less well-defined loral spot. Large rivers. Globally threatened.



Common Teal *Anas crecca* 34–38 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Male has chestnut head with green band behind eye, white stripe along scapulars, and yellowish patch on undertail-coverts. Female has rather uniform head, lacking pale loral spot and dark cheek bar of female Garganey, and with less prominent supercilium; further, bill often shows orange at base, and has prominent white streak at sides of undertail-coverts. Eclipse male and juvenile are much as female. In flight, both sexes have broad white band along greater coverts, and green speculum with narrow white trailing edge; forewing is brown. **HH** During the day feeds by dabbling and grazing on marshes and forages in fields by night. Shallow inland freshwater wetlands; also brackish waters.


Sunda Teal
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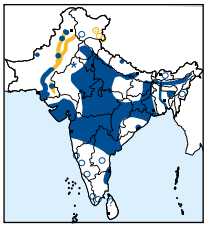
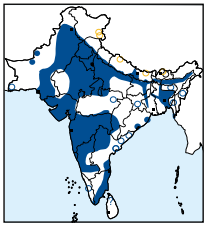
Northern Pintail
Baikal Teal
Common Teal



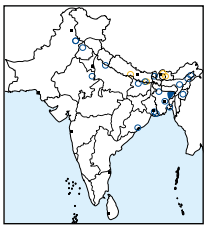
Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* 53–57 cm

Widespread winter visitor; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Large, with square-shaped head. Shape at rest and in flight more like dabbling duck. Male has red bill, rusty-orange head, and white flanks which contrast with black breast and ventral region. Female has pale cheeks contrasting with brown cap, and brown bill with pink towards tip. Both sexes have largely white flight feathers on upperwing, and whitish underwing. Eclipse male very similar to female, but with reddish iris and bill. **HH** Feeds chiefly by diving; occasionally by upending and head-dipping. Large lakes with plentiful submerged and fringing vegetation; occasionally rivers.



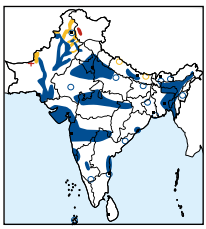
Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* 42–49 cm

Widespread winter visitor; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Large, with domed head. Pale grey flight feathers and grey forewing result in different upperwing pattern from other *Aythya* ducks. Male has chestnut head, black breast, and grey upperparts and flanks. Female has brownish head and breast contrasting with paler brownish-grey upperparts and flanks; usually shows indistinct pale patch on lores, and pale throat and streak behind eye. Eye of female is dark and bill has grey central band. Does not show white undertail-coverts of Ferruginous Duck. Eclipse male and immature male recall breeding male, but are duller with browner breast. **HH** Highly gregarious, often in flocks of several hundred. Lakes and reservoirs with large areas of open water; occasionally rivers.



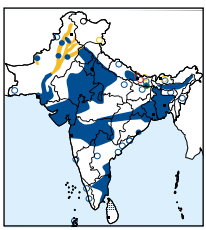
Baer's Pochard *Aythya baeri* 41–46 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Greenish cast to dark head and neck, which contrast with chestnut-brown breast. White patch on fore flanks visible above water and white undertail-coverts. Male has white iris. Female and immature male have duller head and breast than adult male. Female has dark iris and pale and diffuse chestnut-brown loral spot. **HH** Feeds mainly by diving; Shy, usually found in pairs or small parties. Large rivers and lakes. Globally threatened.



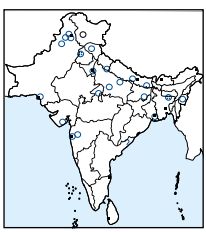
Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* 38–42 cm

Breeds in Baluchistan, Kashmir and Ladakh; widespread winter visitor. Smallest *Aythya* duck, with dome-shaped head. Breeding male is unmistakable, with rich chestnut head, neck and breast and white iris. Female is chestnut-brown on head, neck, breast and flanks, and has dark iris. Eclipse male resembles female, but is brighter on head and breast and has white iris. In flight, shows extensive white wing-bar extending farther onto outer primaries than on other *Aythya* species; and striking white belly (less pronounced in female). **HH** Shy and feeds mainly at night; seeks refuge beyond the surf in coastal areas. Freshwater pools and irrigation tanks with extensive submerged vegetation; also coastal lagoons. **AN** Ferruginous Pochard.



Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* 40–47 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Breeding male is glossy black, with prominent crest and white flanks. Eclipse/immature males are duller, with greyish flanks, and less pronounced crest. Female is dusky brown, with paler flanks; some females may show scaup-like white face patch, but they usually also show tufted nape and squarer head. Female has yellow iris; dark in female Common, and Baer's Pochards and Ferruginous Duck. **HH** Gregarious; sometimes in flocks of several hundred. Feeds in the day mainly by diving; also upends, dips head or picks items from surface. Lakes and reservoirs with large open areas.



Greater Scaup *Aythya marila* 40–51 cm

Winter visitor. N subcontinent. **ID** Larger and stockier than Tufted, with more rounded head and lacking any sign of crest. Bill is larger and wider, and has smaller black nail at tip than Tufted. Male has grey upperparts contrasting with black rear end and green gloss to blackish head. Female has broad white face patch, which is less extensive on juvenile/immature. Female usually has greyish-white vermiculations ('frosting') on upperparts and flanks. Eclipse/immature male has brownish-black head, neck and breast, and variable patch of grey on upperparts. **HH** Feeds mainly by diving, loafs in open water when not feeding. Large lakes and rivers.

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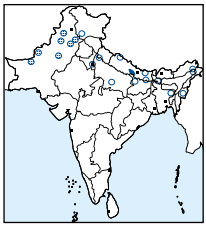
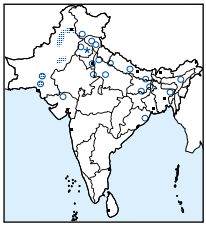


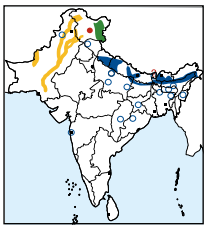
Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* 42–50 cm

Winter visitor. N subcontinent. **ID** Stocky, with bulbous head. Male has dark green head, with large white patch on lores, and black-and-white patterned upperparts. Female has brown head, indistinct whitish collar, and grey body, with white wing patch usually visible at rest. Immature male resembles female, but shows pale loral spot and has some white in scapulars. Eclipse male resembles female, but wing pattern is as breeding male. In flight, both sexes show distinctive white patterning on wing. **HH** Swims with body flattened, and partially spreads wings when diving. Feeds mainly by diving in daytime, group members often submerging simultaneously. Open waters in freshwater lakes and large rivers.



Smew *Mergellus albellus* 38–44 cm

Winter visitor. N subcontinent. **ID** A small, stocky 'sawbill' with square-shaped head. In flight, both sexes show dark upperwing with white wing-covert patch. Male is mainly white, with black face, crest-stripe, breast stripes and back. Flanks are grey. Female, and first-winter and eclipse male, have chestnut cap and white cheeks, and mainly dark grey body. **HH** Feeds diurnally, mainly by diving, members of a flock typically submerging in unison or in quick succession. Freshwater lakes, rivers; and Himalayan streams.

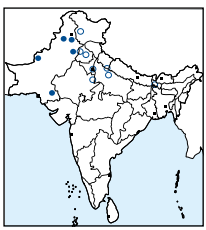


Goosander *Mergus merganser* 58–72 cm

Breeds in Ladakh; winters mainly in N subcontinent. **ID** Male has dark green head and whitish breast and flanks (with variable pink wash). Shows extensive white patch on wing-coverts and secondaries in flight. Female, and eclipse/immature male, have chestnut head and upper neck with shaggy crest, which contrasts with white throat and greyish neck, and show white secondaries in flight. Eclipse male has upperwing pattern like breeding male. **HH** Usually in small parties. Forages in daytime, often fishing cooperatively. An expert swimmer and diver. Flight usually follows the water course. Lakes, rivers and streams; occasionally coastal waters in Pakistan. **AN** Common Merganser.

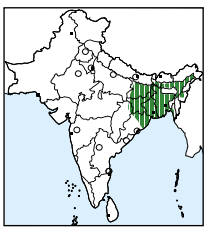
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator* 52–58 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly Pakistan, also India and Nepal. **ID** Male has spiky crest, white collar, ginger breast, and grey flanks. Female, and eclipse/immature male, more closely resemble respective plumages of Goosander and are best told by slimmer appearance, with slimmer bill, and narrower head with weaker and more ragged crest. Chestnut of head and upper neck is duller and contrasts less with grey lower neck and breast, throat is only slightly paler, and has browner body. In flight, white wing patch is broken by black bar, unlike on Common. **HH** Habits are similar to Goosander. Coastal waters in Pakistan; large rivers and lakes.



White-headed Duck *Oxyura leucocephala* 43–48 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan and N India. **ID** Swollen base to bill, and pointed tail which is often held erect. Breeding male has white head with black cap, and bright blue bill. Eclipse male has duller, less rufous body, grey bill, and black of cap more extensive and less clearly defined. Female and juvenile have grey bill, and striped head pattern (with dark cap, pale stripe below eye and dark stripe across cheeks). Immature male can have much black on head, which can even be all black. **HH** Prefers to escape by diving or by swimming away while partially submerged. Large fresh waters, lakes and brackish lagoons with extensive submerged aquatic vegetation. Globally threatened.



Pink-headed Duck *Rhodonessa caryophyllacea* 60 cm

May be extinct. Mainly NE India. **ID** Long neck and body and triangular head. Male with combination of pink head and hind neck, and dark brown foreneck and body; bill pink. Female similar, but with paler, dull brown body, greyish-pink head, and brownish crown and hind neck. In flight, pale fawn secondaries and contrasting dark forewing, and pale pink underwing with dark body. **HH** Shy and secretive. Fed by dabbling on the water surface, but could also dive; occasionally perched in trees. Secluded pools and marshes in elephant-grass jungle. Globally threatened.

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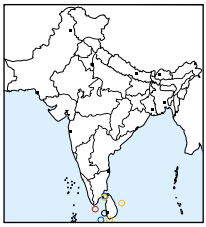
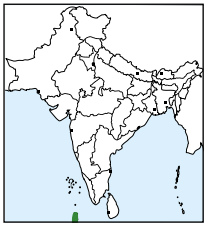
Common Goldeneye
Smew
Goosander
Red-breasted Merganser
Pink-headed Duck
White-headed Duck



Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas* 48 cm

Visitor. India and Sri Lanka. **ID** White underparts and underwing-coverts and large size. Variable dark streaking on whitish head (typically palest around eye), and pale bill with dark tip. Flight typically rather relaxed and gull-like with wings slightly angled at carpal joints, interspersed with gliding on bowed wings. Will rise ('shear') high in strong winds, but wings still slightly angled and flapping relaxed. **HH** Frequently in flocks with other seabirds, and follows fishing boats. Seizes fish and squid from the surface; also makes shallow dives. Pelagic, inshore waters.

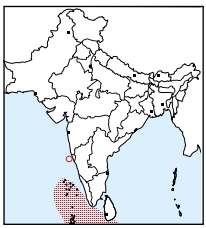


Audubon's Shearwater *Puffinus lherminieri* 30 cm

Resident or breeding visitor? India? Maldives. **ID** Small size with comparatively short broad wings. Blackish upperparts, white underparts with dark on breast sides; white wing-linings, axillaries and flanks, with broad dark margins to underwing. Flies with fairly fast wing-beats interspersed with short glides low over sea, although often rises in low arcs in strong winds. **HH** Sometimes associates with other seabirds; occasionally follows fishing boats. Catches prey by plunge-diving followed by underwater pursuit, and by pattering across the surface with legs dangling. Offshore and pelagic waters.

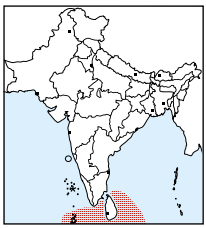
Persian Shearwater *Puffinus persicus* 30.5–33 cm

Visitor. Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Slightly larger than Audubon's, with longer, broader wings, shorter tail, and longer paler bill. Browner coloration to upperparts than Audubon's, with less white on underwing-coverts (with brownish leading edge), and brownish axillaries and flanks. Flies with fairly fast wing-beats interspersed with short glides low over the sea, although often rises in low arcs in strong winds. **HH** Habits are similar to Audubon's. Mainly offshore waters, also pelagic.



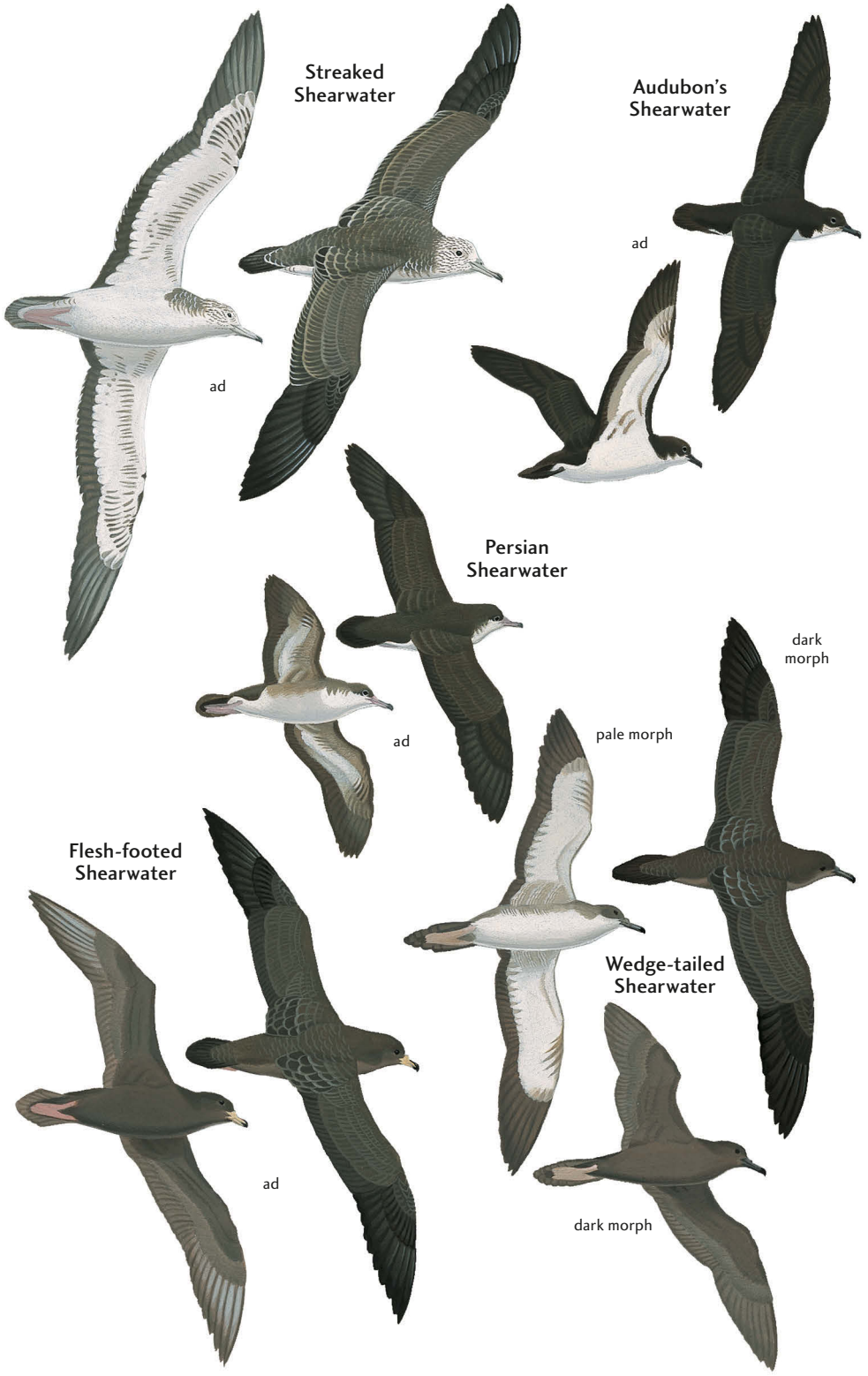
Flesh-footed Shearwater *Puffinus carneipes* 41–45 cm

Visitor. India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID** Large, dark, broad-winged shearwater. Pink legs and feet. Underwing is dark, although can show pale patch on underside of primaries in strong light. Tail shorter and more rounded than Wedge-tailed. Stout pinkish bill with dark tip. Flight typically relaxed with strong flapping interspersed with long, stiff-winged glides; banks and glides with less flapping in stronger winds. **HH** Catches food chiefly by plunge-diving and pursuing prey under water; also by running along the surface between shallow belly-flop dives. Mainly offshore waters; also pelagic.



Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* 41–46 cm

Visitor. India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID** Large size, long and broad wings, long pointed or wedge-shaped tail, and fine dark bill. In calm conditions, lazy flapping and short glides with wings held forward and bowed. Rather rakish appearance with longer tail and extended neck compared with Flesh-footed. In strong winds flight is erratic and bounding, often changing direction and soaring in low arcs between short bursts of flapping. Dimorphic; pale morph has white underparts and underwing coverts with dark primaries and trailing edge; dark morph is all dark including dark underwing (although paler bases to primaries may give impression of pale patch); intermediates occur. **HH** Often follows fishing boats. Feeds mainly on the wing, by dipping to the surface; also by plunging head under water, but seldom completely submerges. Partly pelagic; also occurring in offshore waters.


Streaked Shearwater
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Audubon's Shearwater
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Flesh-footed Shearwater
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Wedge-tailed Shearwater
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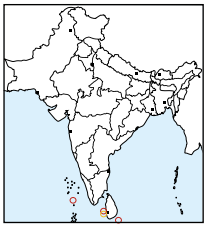
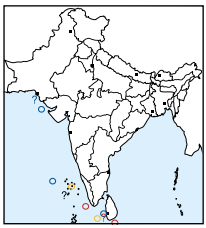


Barau's Petrel *Pterodroma baraui* 38 cm

Visitor. India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Whitish forehead and dark grey cap, dark rump and tail contrasting with grey lower mantle and back, and grey patches on sides of breast (which do not form complete breast band). Bill is heavy and black. Upperwing varies from being mainly pale with pronounced blackish M-mark to being mainly dark through wear with pale greater-covert panel. **HH** Often feeds with other seabirds, sometimes near fishing boats. Feeds by seizing prey from the surface or by dipping. Largely white underwing with black band on leading and trailing edges. Pelagic. Globally threatened.

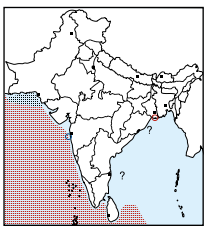
Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* 26–27 cm

Summer visitor. India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID** All-dark, long-winged petrel with long and pointed (or wedge-shaped) tail and pale band across greater upperwing-coverts. From Jouanin's by smaller size, proportionately smaller, squarer head with finer bill, more prominent band across greater-coverts (although Jouanin's in worn plumage may show this), and different flight action. Flight is springy, erratic and close to the waves, with wings held forward and bowed. In calm conditions, rapid flapping interspersed with short twisting glides. In strong winds, has faster wing-beats and glides in shallow arcs. **HH** Habits resemble a small gadfly petrel. Tail often held slightly raised. Circles low over surface when feeding. Usually does not follow ships. Pelagic.



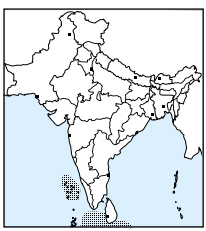
Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax* 30–32 cm

Visitor. India and Sri Lanka. **ID** From Bulwer's by larger size and broader wings, larger head and larger, stouter bill, and different flight action; tail is broader and not so pointed and long. Upperwing dark, but can show pale band across greater coverts, as on Bulwer's, through wear. Flight action differs from Bulwer's. In windy conditions, will rise 5 m or more above waves in long banking arcs, interspersed with short bouts of leisurely flaps (usually at peak of arc). Otherwise, flies close to surface, with a mix of steady beats and long glides. Smaller, with less languid flight, than dark-morph Wedge-tailed Shearwater and has stouter bill, held downwards at 45° angle. **HH** Habits similar to Bulwer's, but flies faster, more strongly and in higher arcs. Pelagic.



Wilson's Storm-petrel *Oceanites oceanicus* 15–19 cm

Visitor. W and S coastal waters. **ID** The only storm-petrel with white rump and dark underparts recorded in the subcontinent. Has square-ended tail, pale band across greater upperwing-coverts, and uniformly dark underwing. Feet project noticeably beyond tail. Wings are comparatively short and rounded. Frequently seen fluttering over water, with wings held in shallow V, when dangling feet show yellow webbing. Direct flight is swallow-like, with fast, shallow wing-beats and occasional gliding. **HH** Occurs singly or is gregarious, and often follows boats. Feeds by pattering, walking or jumping on the surface with wings held high over the back and legs dangling. Pelagic.



Swinhoe's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma monorhis* 20 cm

Visitor. India and Sri Lanka. **ID** The only all-dark storm-petrel recorded from the subcontinent. Has pale band across greater upperwing-coverts, angular wings (with pronounced carpal bend), and shallowly forked tail. Has fast, swooping flight with some bounding and gliding. (Matsudaira's Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma matsudairae*, which winters in the Indian Ocean but not recorded in the region, is larger, has longer and broader wings, more pronounced tail fork, slower flight action with lazy flapping interspersed with prolonged gliding, and has distinct white patch at base of primaries.) **HH** Feeds chiefly by dipping; does not patter. Usually pelagic; also occurs in coastal waters.

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Barau's Petrel

Bulwer's Petrel

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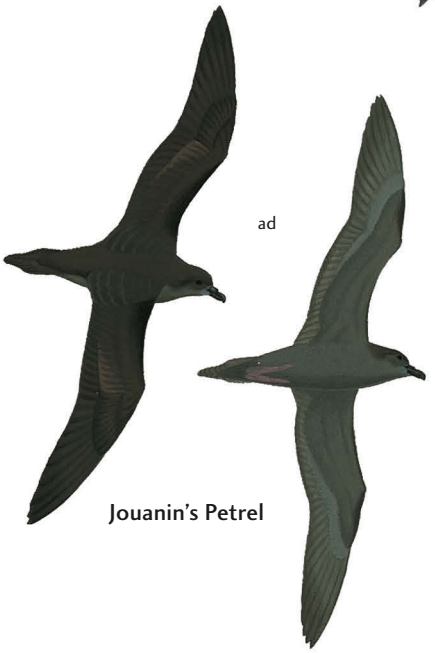

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Jouanin's Petrel

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Wilson's Storm-petrel

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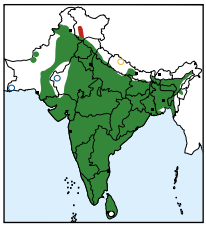
Swinhoe's Storm-petrel

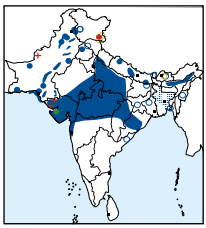


Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* 25–29 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Small size, often with puffed-up rear end. Shows whitish secondaries in flight. In breeding plumage, has rufous cheeks and neck sides and yellow patch at base of bill. In non-breeding plumage, has buff cheeks, foreneck and flanks. Juvenile is similar to non-breeding but has brown stripes across cheeks. **Voice** Utters a drawn-out whinnying trill in breeding season, and a sharp *wit wit* in alarm. **HH** Often keeps singly or in pairs among aquatic vegetation when breeding; in non-breeding season keeps in small loose flocks in open water. Lakes, ponds, village tanks, reservoirs, ditches, and slow-moving rivers; rarely on coastal waters.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* 40–50 cm

Winter visitor. N Pakistan and N India. **ID** Slightly smaller than Great Crested Grebe with stouter neck, squarer head, and stockier body which is often puffed up at rear end. Black-tipped yellow bill. Unlike Great Crested, Red-necked often leaps clear of water when diving. Black crown extends to eye (including lores), and has dusky cheeks and foreneck in non-breeding plumage. Greyish cheeks and reddish foreneck in breeding plumage. Juvenile is similar to non-breeding, but has brown striping on cheeks and rufous foreneck. **HH** Habits are similar to Great Crested Grebe's. Lakes.

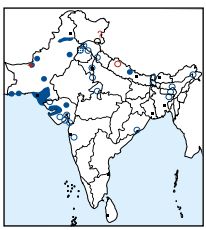


Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* 46–51 cm

Breeds in NW subcontinent; winter visitor to N subcontinent. **ID** Large and slender-necked, with pinkish bill. Black crown does not extend to eye, and has white cheeks and foreneck in non-breeding plumage. Rufous-orange ear-tufts and white cheeks and foreneck in breeding plumage. Juvenile is similar to non-breeding, but has brown striping on cheeks. Swims with body low in the water and neck held erect. **HH** Both sexes perform striking, ritual courtship displays. Favours open water: lakes and reservoirs; also coastal waters and saltpans.

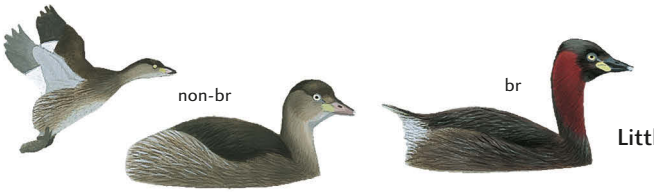
Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* 31–38 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan and NW India. Triangular-shaped head, with crown peaking at rear. Bill is stouter and does not appear upturned as it does in Black-necked Grebe. Has two white patches on upperwing, with white patch on wing-coverts usually lacking on Black-necked. White cheeks contrasting with black crown and white foreneck in non-breeding plumage. Yellow ear-tufts and rufous neck and breast in breeding plumage. Juvenile as non-breeding, but may show faint dark stripes on cheeks and rufous on neck. Usually swims with neck erect, in contrast to Black-necked. **HH** Lakes and coastal waters. **AN** Horned Grebe.

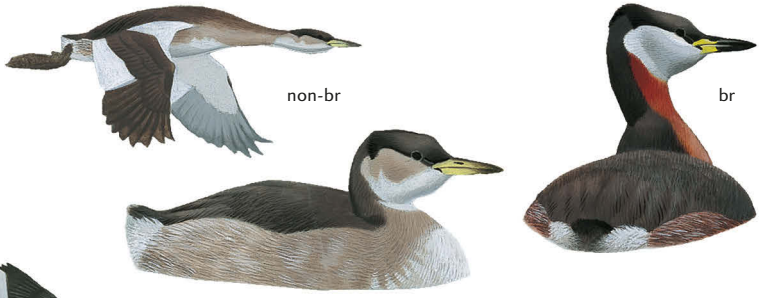


Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* 28–34 cm

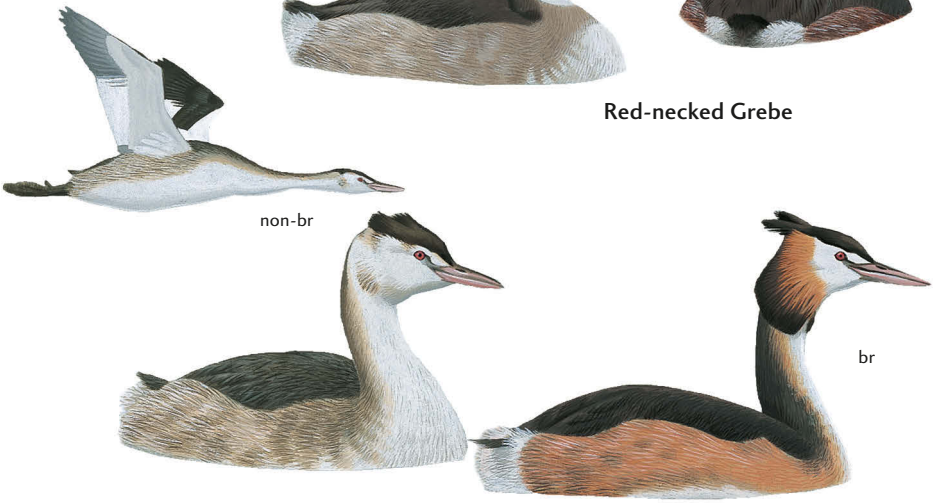
Breeds in Baluchistan; winters mainly in Pakistan, NW India and Nepal. Steep forehead, with crown typically peaking at front or centre. Compared with Slavonian, black of crown extends below eye, ear-coverts are dusky grey, and white throat curves up behind ear-coverts in non-breeding plumage. Yellow ear-tufts, black neck and breast and rufous flanks in breeding plumage. Juvenile as non-breeding, but may show buff wash to cheeks and foreneck and more closely resembles Little. Typically swims with curved neck, in contrast to Slavonian Grebe. **HH** Habits are similar to Little Grebe's. Reed-edged lakes with emergent vegetation; also coastal waters in winter. **AN** Eared Grebe.



Little Grebe

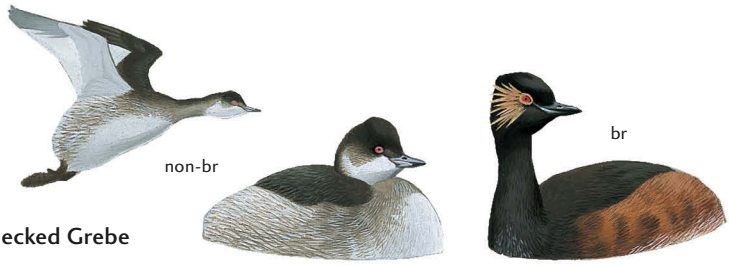


Red-necked Grebe

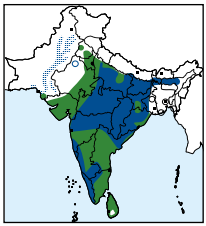


Great Crested Grebe

Slavonian Grebe

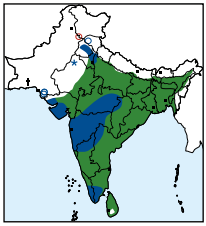


Black-necked Grebe



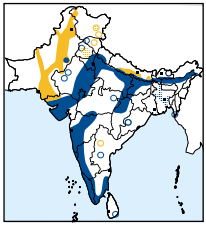
Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala* 93–100 cm

Widespread resident in plains; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Adult has downcurved yellow bill, bare orange head (redder in breeding season), and pinkish legs; white barring on mainly black upperwing-coverts, pinkish tertials, and black barring across breast. In flight, underwing appears mainly dark, with barring on coverts. Juvenile dirty greyish-white, with grey-brown (feathered) head and neck and brown lesser coverts; bill and legs duller than adult's. Has distinctive appearance in flight, with extended drooping neck and downcurved bill, long wings with rather deep flapping beats, and long trailing legs. **HH** Found singly, in small parties and sometimes in large flocks. Forages by wading slowly in shallow water with the bill open and partly submerged, feeling for prey. Roosts gregariously on trees if available, otherwise on open sandbanks, mud or saltpans. Freshwater marshes, lakes and reservoirs, flooded fields, river banks, intertidal mudflats and saltpans.



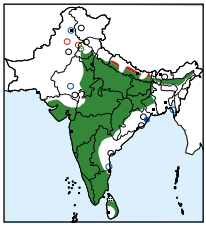
Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans* 68 cm

Widespread resident in plains; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Stout, dull-coloured 'open bill'. Largely white (breeding) or greyish-white (non-breeding), with black flight feathers and tail; legs usually dull pink, brighter in breeding condition. Juvenile has brownish-grey head, neck and breast, and brownish mantle and scapulars slightly paler than the blackish flight feathers. **HH** Forages singly or in small or medium-sized flocks. Usually seeks food by submerging its head and opened bill into shallow water and probing bottom mud; the bill is quickly closed on any prey. Freshwater marshes, shallow lakes, reservoirs, tanks lagoons and paddy-fields; rarely on river banks and mudflats.



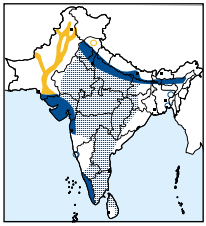
Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* 90–100 cm

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Mainly N subcontinent. **ID** Adult mainly glossy black, with white lower breast and belly, and red bill and legs; in flight, white underparts and axillaries contrast strongly with black neck and underwing. Juvenile has brown head, neck and upperparts flecked with white; bill and legs greyish-green. **HH** Keeps in pairs or small parties. Often very shy and wary. Forages by walking with measured strides in shallow water. Inland freshwaters including marshes and rivers.



Woolly-necked Stork *Ciconia episcopus* 75–92 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW or NE subcontinent and E India. **ID** Stocky, largely blackish stork with 'woolly' white neck, black 'skullcap', and white vent and undertail-coverts. In flight, upperwing and underwing entirely dark. Adult has black of body and wings glossed with greenish-blue, purple and copper. Bill is black, with variable amounts of red, and legs and feet are dull red. Juvenile similarly patterned to adult, but has duller brown body and wings, and feathered forehead. **HH** Usually found singly or in pairs, occasionally in small parties. Hunts on dry or marshy ground and wet grasslands; rarely wades. Flooded grassland, marshes, irrigated fields and riverine areas, usually near open wooded country.



White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* 100–125 cm

Widespread winter visitor and passage migrant. **ID** Mainly white, with black flight feathers and striking red bill and legs. Generally has cleaner black-and-white appearance than Asian Openbill; note tail is white (black in Asian Openbill). Juvenile is similar to adult but with brown greater coverts and duller brownish-red bill and legs. **HH** Found singly and in flocks. Usually shy and difficult to approach. Stalks about deliberately on dry or moist ground in search of prey. Grassland and damp ploughed or fallow fields.

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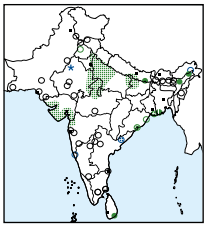
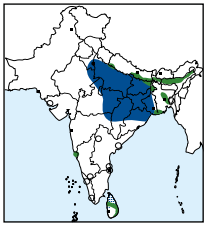


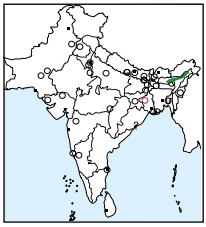
Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* 129–150 cm

Widespread resident in lowlands. **ID** Large, black-and-white stork with long red legs and huge black bill. In flight, wings white except for broad black band across coverts, and tail black. Male has brown iris; yellow in female. Juvenile has fawn-brown head, neck and mantle, mainly brown wing-coverts, and mainly blackish-brown flight feathers; legs dark. **HH** Forages singly, in well-separated pairs within sight of each other, or in family parties after the breeding season. Usually very wary. Wades slowly and sedately while probing in shallow water and among aquatic vegetation with bill open at the tip. Freshwater marshes, lakes, tanks and large rivers; occasionally mangroves, rarely coastal mudflats.



Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* 110–120 cm

Widespread resident in lowlands; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Flies with neck retracted, as Greater Adjutant, giving rise to different profile compared with other storks. Smaller than Greater, with slimmer bill that has straighter ridge to culmen. Told from adult breeding Greater Adjutant by smaller size, glossy black mantle and wings (lacking paler panel across greater coverts – although this is much less distinct in non-breeding and immature Greater), and white undertail-coverts; neck ruff is largely black (appearing as black patch on sides of breast in flight). Further, has pale frontal plate, denser hair-like feathering on back of head (forming small crest) and down hind neck, and lacks neck pouch. Adult breeding has red tinge to face and neck, copper spots at tips of median coverts, and narrow white fringes to scapulars and inner greater coverts. Juvenile is similar to adult, but upperparts are dull black, and head and neck are duller and more densely feathered. **HH** Usually found singly, and is very shy. Forages by walking slowly on dry ground or in shallow water and grabs prey with its bill. Marshes, forest pools, flooded fields, lakes and drying-up river beds. Globally threatened.



Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius* 120–150 cm

Resident. Mainly Assam; rare elsewhere. **ID** Larger than Lesser Adjutant, with stouter, conical bill with convex ridge to culmen. Adult breeding told from adult Lesser Adjutant by larger size, bluish-grey (rather than glossy black) mantle, prominent silvery-grey panel across greater coverts and tertials, mainly white neck ruff (lacking or with less pronounced black patch on sides of breast in flight), and grey undertail-coverts. Further, has blackish face and forehead (with appearance of dried blood), more sparsely feathered head and neck (lacking small crest), and larger neck pouch (visible only when inflated). Adult non-breeding has darker grey mantle and wing-coverts (which barely contrast with rest of wing). Immature is similar to adult non-breeding, but upperparts including wings are browner, has brownish (rather than whitish) iris, and head and neck are more densely feathered. **HH** Habits are similar to Lesser Adjutant's, but less shy and unlike that species, feeds partly on carrion. Gathers with others of the species, vultures and kites at refuse dumps. Also hunts small live animals in typical stork fashion, by walking slowly in marshes and shallow waters. Marshes, lakes and agricultural land. Globally threatened.

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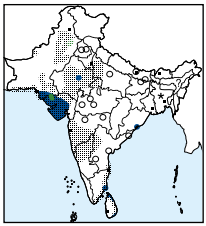
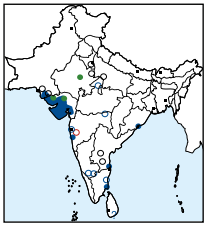


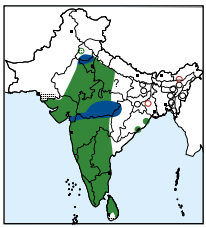
Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* 125–145 cm

Resident and winter visitor. Breeds in Gujarat; widespread visitor to plains. **ID** Larger than Lesser, with longer, thinner neck and longer legs. Bill larger and less prominently kinked. Adult from adult Lesser by paler pink bill with prominent dark tip, and pink facial skin. Has pinkish-white head, neck and body, although Lesser can be similar. Comparatively uniform crimson-pink upperwing-coverts contrast in flight with paler, whitish body. Immature has greyish-white head, neck and body; brown-streaked coverts, bill grey tipped black, and legs grey (pinker with age). Juvenile has brownish head, neck and body, with heavy brown streaking to upperparts. **HH** Immerses head in shallow water with bill inverted and filters food. Shallow brackish lakes, mudflats and saltpans.



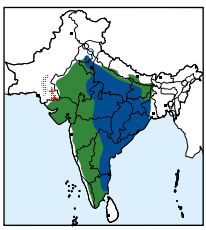
Lesser Flamingo *Phoenicopterus minor* 80–90 cm

Breeds in Gujarat; widespread in Indian and Pakistan plains in non-breeding season. **ID** Smaller than Greater; neck and legs appears shorter, and bill is smaller and more prominently kinked. Adult from adult Greater by black-tipped dark red bill (which can appear all dark) and dark red facial skin. coloration of head, neck and body is deeper rose-pink than Greater, although can be as white as Greater. Also shows more restricted area of darker pink on upperwing than Greater, although extent of pink variable in both species. Immature and juvenile similar to Greater, although bill is darker in Lesser. **HH** Walks or swims while sweeping head and neck to and fro, sieving micro-organisms; in very shallow water feeds like Greater. Salt and brackish lagoons and saltpans.



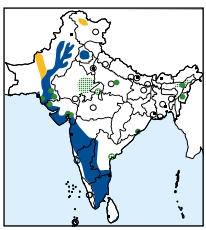
Black-headed Ibis *Threskiornis melanocephalus* 75 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of E India and NW subcontinent. **ID** Stocky, mainly white ibis with stout downcurved black bill. Adult breeding has naked black head, white lower-neck plumes, variable yellow wash to mantle and breast, and grey on scapulars and elongated tertials. In flight, shows stripe of bare red skin on underside of white forewing and on flanks. Adult non-breeding has all-white body and lacks neck plumes. Immature has grey feathering on head and neck, and black-tipped wings. **HH** Habits similar to Glossy's. Freshwater marshes, tanks, lakes, rivers, flooded grassland, paddy-fields, tidal creeks and mudflats, saltmarshes and coastal lagoons.



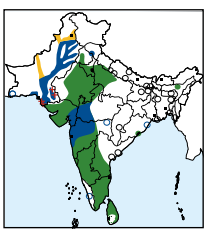
Red-naped Ibis *Pseudibis papillosa* 68 cm

Widespread resident in lowlands of Pakistan, Nepal and India. **ID** Stocky, dark ibis with relatively stout downcurved bill. Has white shoulder patch and reddish legs. Appears bulky and broad-winged in flight, with only the feet extending beyond tail. Adult has naked black head with red nape, and is dark brown with green-and-purple gloss. Immature dark brown, including feathered head. **HH** Habits similar to Glossy's. Dry grassland, fallow fields, edges of lakes and marshes; near rubbish dumps. **AN** Black Ibis.



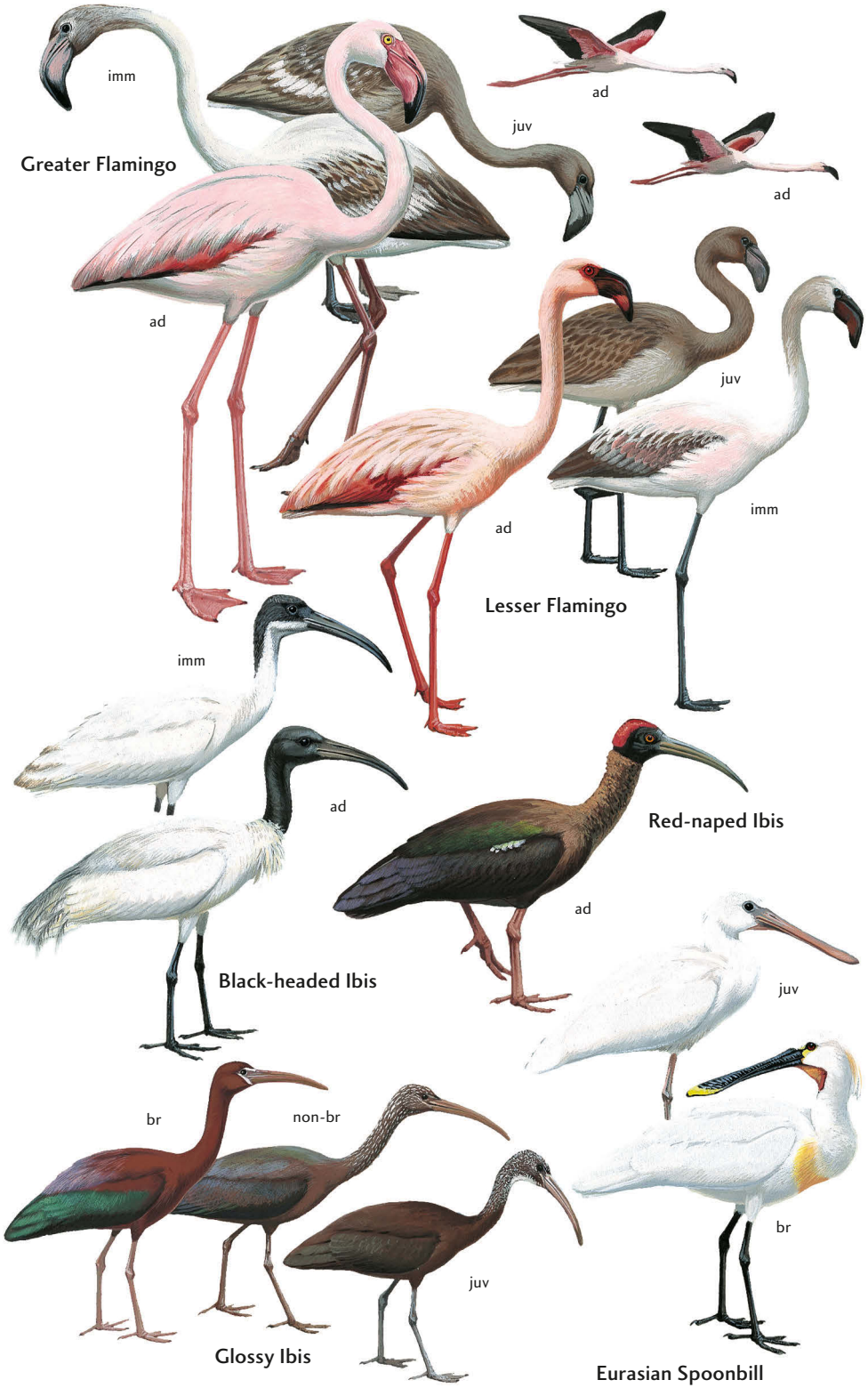
Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus* 55–65 cm

Resident and winter visitor. Mainly W and S subcontinent. **ID** Small, dark ibis with rather fine downcurved bill. Graceful in flight, with extended slender neck, somewhat bulbous head, and legs and feet projecting well beyond tail. Adult breeding deep chestnut, glossed with purple and green; has narrow white surround to bare lores. Adult non-breeding duller, with white streaking on dark brown head and neck. Juvenile similar to adult non-breeding, but is dark brown with white mottling on head, and only faint greenish gloss to upperparts. **HH** Walks in shallow water or wades belly-deep while probing rapidly into water and mud. Freshwater marshes and large lakes, flooded grassland and paddy-fields.



Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* 80–90 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of India and NW subcontinent. **ID** White, with spatulate-tipped bill. In flight, neck is outstretched, and flapping is rather stiff and interspersed with gliding. Adult has black bill with yellow tip; has crest and yellow breast patch when breeding. Juvenile has pink bill; in flight, shows black tips to primaries. **HH** Wades in shallow water, making side-to-side sweeps of bill and sifting prey. Larger lakes, lagoons, rivers and marshes; also tidal creeks and mangroves.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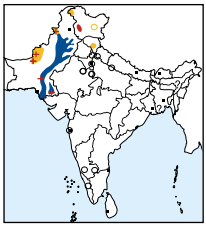
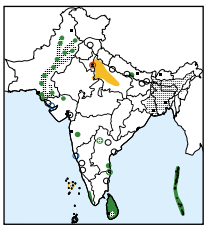


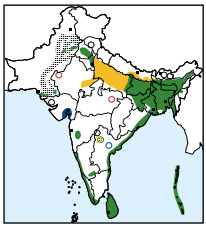
Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* 33–38 cm

Resident in Kashmir and Baluchistan; widely recorded elsewhere in India and Pakistan. **ID** Buffish wing-coverts contrast with dark flight feathers in all plumages. Male has black crown and mantle/scapulars, and buff neck. Female has brown mantle/scapulars with pale edgings, and streaked underparts. Juvenile has streaked upperparts including wing coverts, and brown streaking on underparts; very similar to juvenile Yellow Bittern but streaking on foreneck and breast of Yellow is generally more rufous-orange. Bill is shorter than Yellow. **Voice** Territorial call is a low-pitched, far-carrying and repeated *woof... woof... woof... woof;* flight call is an abrupt *quer* or throaty *ker-ack*. **HH** Solitary. Most active at dusk; usually spends the day concealed in thick waterside vegetation, but may be seen in the daytime in cloudy weather. Forages by creeping through dense vegetation or by standing and waiting at the edges of cover. If disturbed, often freezes with head and bill pointing vertically skywards. Tall reedbeds bordering lakes, marshes and streams.



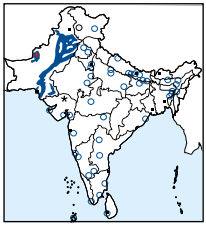
Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* 38 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Yellowish-buff wing-coverts contrast with dark brown flight feathers. Male has pinkish-brown mantle/scapulars, and face and sides of neck are vinaceous. Female is similar to male, but has rufous streaking on black crown, variable rufous-orange streaking on foreneck and breast, and buff streaking to rufous-brown mantle and scapulars. Juvenile appears buff with bold dark streaking to upperparts including wing-coverts; foreneck and breast are heavily streaked. **Voice** Territorial call is a low-pitched *ou-ou*. **HH** Habits are very similar to those of Little. Reedbeds and scrub in swamps, and flooded paddy-fields.



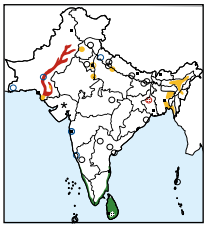
Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* 38 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Uniform-looking cinnamon-rufous flight feathers and tail in all plumages. Male has cinnamon-rufous crown, hind neck and mantle/scapulars. Female has browner crown and mantle, and brown streaking on foreneck and breast. Juvenile has buff mottling on dark brown upperparts, and is heavily streaked with dark brown on underparts. **Voice** Territorial call is a loud *kok-kok*. **HH** Habits very similar to those of Little. Often found in same locality and in same habitat as Yellow. Reedbeds in lakes and marshes, and flooded paddy-fields.



Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis* 58 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Male has blackish upperparts, with yellowish malar and sides of neck and dark streaking on underparts. Female similar but browner upperparts and chestnut-streaked underparts. Juvenile similar but with distinct fringes to upperparts. **Voice** Territorial call is a loud booming. **HH** Habits are those of a typical bittern. Chiefly nocturnal and crepuscular; skulks in dense swamps during the day Most often seen flying at dawn and dusk and in cloudy weather. Reedbeds and submerged bushes mixed with clumps of reeds or sedges.



Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* 70–80 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Stocky. Golden-brown and cryptically patterned, with black crown and moustachial stripe. **Voice** Calling has been recorded from Kashmir in summer: a booming *umphh... umphh... umphh*. **HH** Habits are those of a typical bittern. Usually remains hidden in reedbeds and is most often seen flying low over the reed tops. Hunts alone, by walking stealthily through vegetation, often with intervals of standing motionless. Dense tall wet beds of *Phragmites* reeds or *Typha* bulrushes in lakes and marshes. **AN** Eurasian Bittern.

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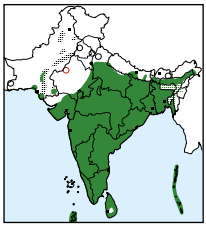
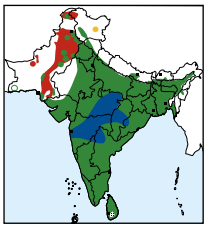


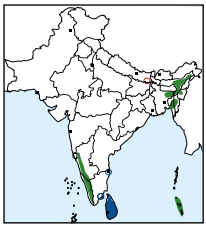
Striated Heron *Butorides striata* 40–48 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Small, stocky and short-legged heron. Adult has black crown and crest, dark greenish upperparts and greyish underparts. Juvenile has buff streaking and spotting on upperparts and dark-streaked underparts. Immature is similar to juvenile with uniform brown crown and mantle. **HH** Normally frequents the same area day after day. Hunts alone and in typical heron fashion. Often crepuscular activity of coastal birds are dependent on the tidal cycle; sometimes birds are active during the day, especially in overcast weather, but they usually keep to thick vegetation on banks of rivers and pools and are often seen perching on branches overhanging water. Pools, lakes, streams and rivers with dense shrubby vegetation on banks; also occurs in mangrove swamps and creeks. **AN** Little Heron.



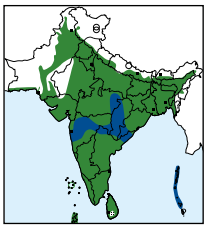
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* 58–65 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Stocky, with thick neck. Adult has black crown and mantle contrasting with grey wings and whitish underparts. Juvenile boldly streaked and spotted. Immature has unstreaked brown mantle/scapulars. **Voice** A distinctive, deep and rather abrupt *wouck* in flight. **HH** Nocturnal and crepuscular except when feeding young. Usually spends the day sitting hunched in a densely foliaged tree. Most often seen at dusk, flying singly or in small groups from its daytime roost. Mainly forages singly, sometimes in a loose group. Ponds, tanks, lakes, streams, mangroves, estuaries, tidal creeks and coastal lagoons.



Malayan Night Heron *Gorsachius melanolophus* 51 cm

Resident and partial migrant in Western Ghats, NE India and Nicobars; winter visitor to Sri Lanka. **ID** Stocky, with stout bill and short neck. Adult has black crown and crest, rufous sides to head and neck, and rufous-brown upperparts. Juveniles vary from greyish in coloration (NE subcontinent) to rufous (peninsula), and finely vermiculated with white, black and rufous-buff, and with bold white spotting on crown and crest. **HH** Shy and mainly nocturnal. Skulks in damp places in forest undergrowth during the day. If flushed, flies off silently into a nearby thickly foliaged tree. Streams and marshes in dense evergreen forest.

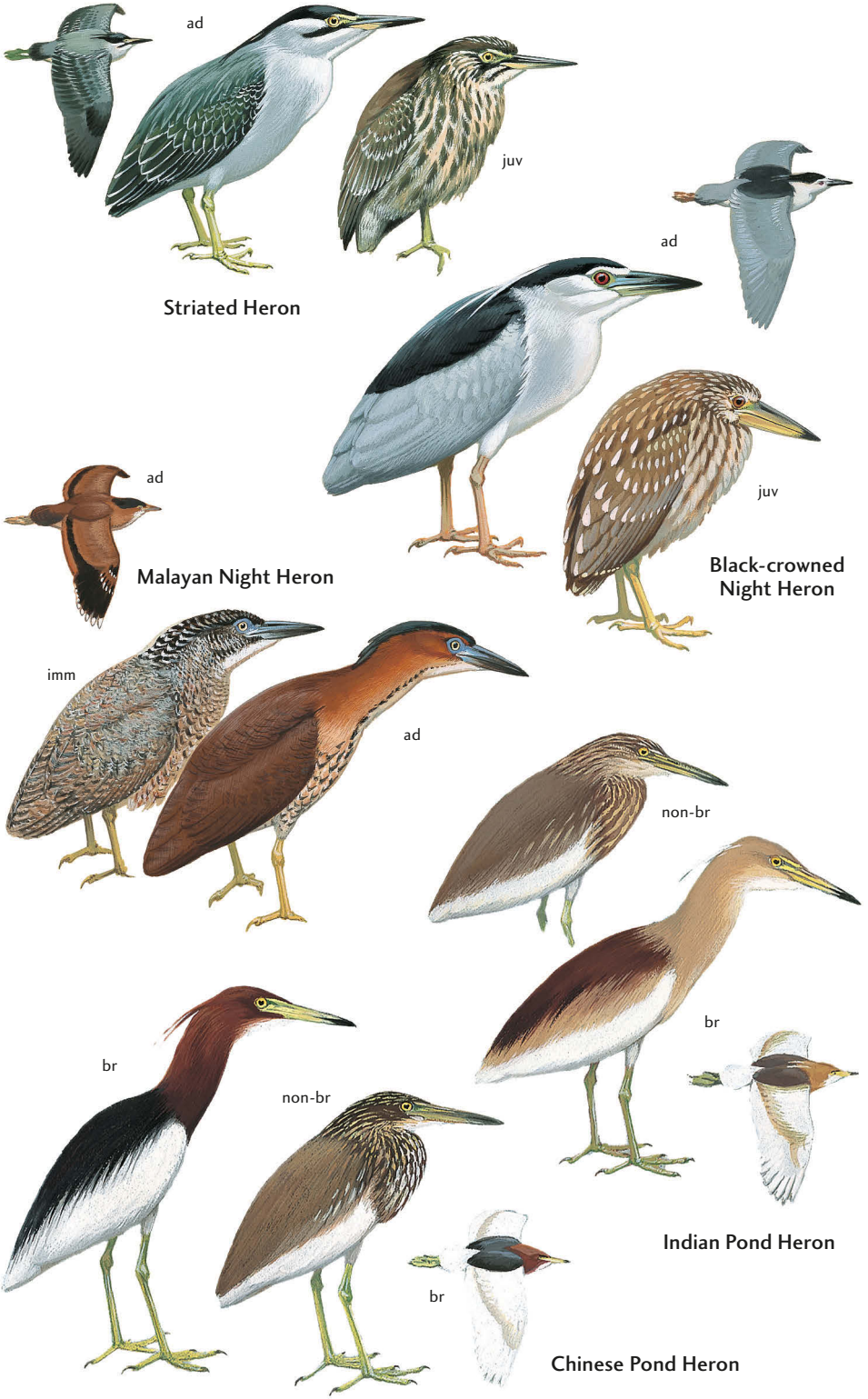


Indian Pond Heron *Ardeola grayii* 42–45 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Whitish wings contrast with dark saddle. Adult breeding has yellowish-buff head and neck and maroon-brown mantle/scapulars. Head, neck and breast streaked/spotted in non-breeding plumage. **Voice** A high, harsh squawk when flushed. **HH** Usually solitary when hunting, but will gather in large numbers at drying-out pools to feed on stranded fish. Roosts communally. Tame and inconspicuous when perched, but flies up with a startling flash of white wings. Marshes, flooded paddy-fields, lakes, village tanks, ditches, lakes, mangroves creeks and tidal mudflats.

Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus* 52 cm

Resident and winter visitor? Mainly NE India and Andamans. **ID** In breeding plumage has maroon-chestnut head and neck and slaty-black mantle/scapulars. Non-breeding and immature plumages probably not separable from those of Indian Pond. **Voice** Presumably like that of Indian Pond. **HH** Presumably like Indian Pond Heron.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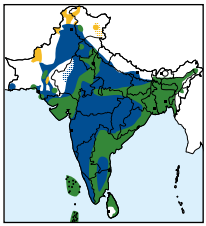
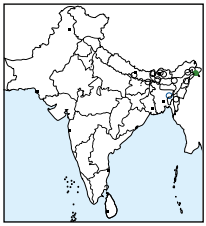


Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* 90–98 cm

Resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. Widespread; unrecorded in parts of the northwest and northeast. **ID** A large, mainly grey heron, lacking any brown or rufous in its plumage. In flight, black flight feathers contrast with grey upperwing- and underwing-coverts, and shows a prominent white leading edge to wing when head-on. Adult has yellow bill, whitish head and neck with black head plumes, and black patches on belly. In breeding season, has whitish scapular plumes and bill and legs become orange or reddish. Immature is duller than adult, with grey crown, reduced black 'crest', greyer neck, less pronounced black patches on sides of belly, and duller bill and legs. Juvenile has dark grey cap with slight crest, dirty grey neck and breast, lacks black patches on belly sides, lacks plumes, and has dark legs. **Voice** Often calls in flight, a loud *frarnk*. **HH** A typical diurnal heron. Usually feeds singly; occasionally gathers in loose parties at good feeding areas. Roosts communally in winter. Prefers to hunt in the open unlike Purple Heron. Inland and coastal waters: lakes, marshes, estuaries, mangroves, tidal creeks, rocky offshore islands and coral reefs.

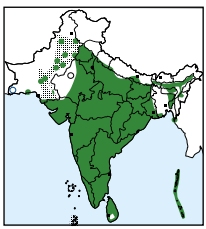


White-bellied Heron *Ardea insignis* 127 cm

Resident. E Himalayan foothills. **ID** Large size, very long neck, huge dark bill, and large, dark legs and feet. Grey head with white throat, and white-striped grey foreneck and breast contrasting with white belly. In flight, has uniform dark grey upperwing, and white underwing-coverts contrasting with dark grey flight feathers. In breeding plumage, has greyish-white nape plumes, grey back plumes, and white-striped breast plumes; lores and orbital skin are yellowish-green. Juvenile has browner upperparts and streaked appearance to upperparts. **Voice** Has a loud, very donkey-like croaking bray, *ock, ock, ock, ock, urrrrrr*. **HH** Shy. Found singly or in pairs. Hunting methods are similar to those of other diurnal herons. Rivers, marshes and lakes in tropical and subtropical forest. Globally threatened.

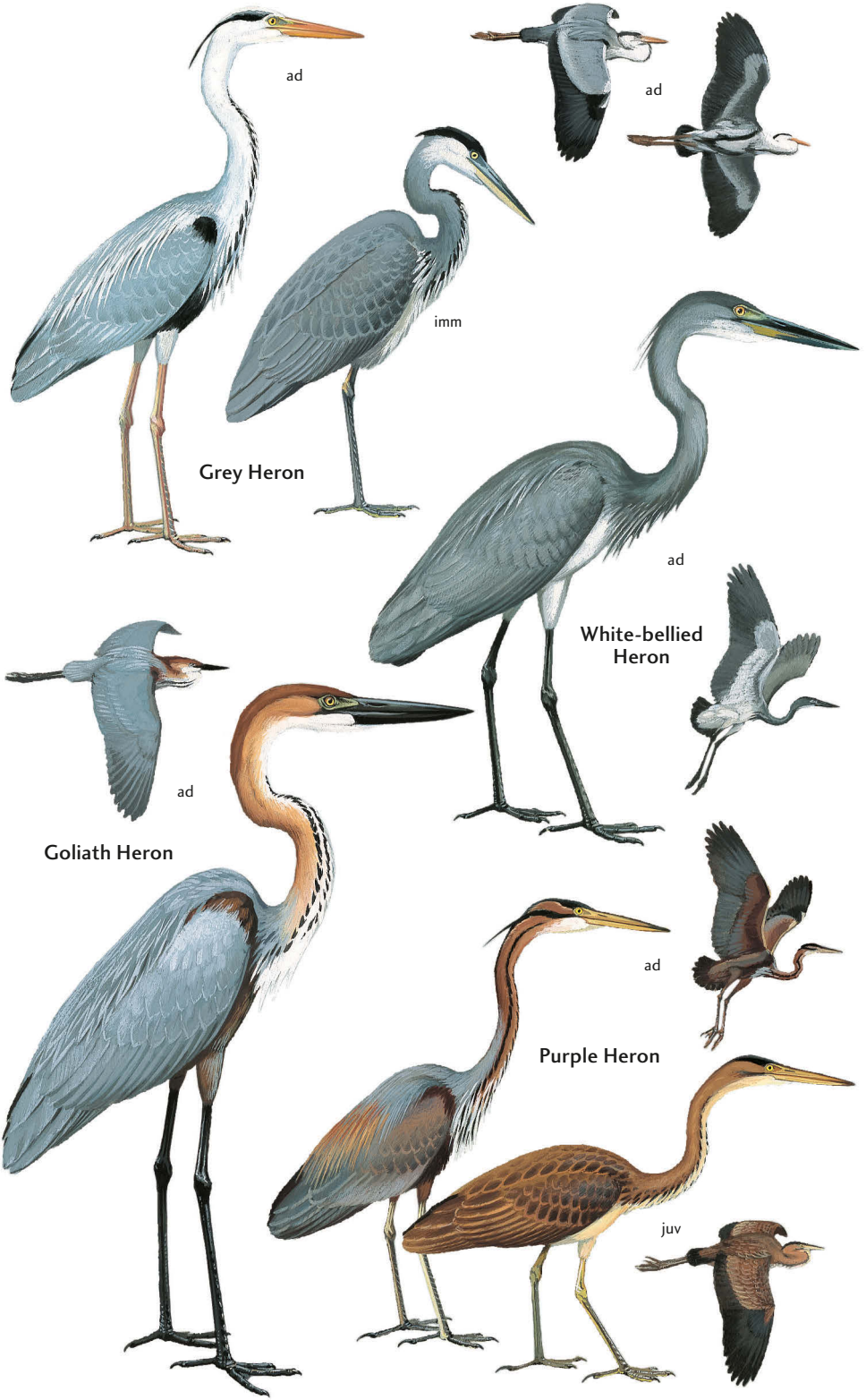
Goliath Heron *Ardea goliath* 135–150 cm

Visitor or resident? Mainly NE India. **ID** Recalls giant Purple Heron; in all plumages, distinguished from that species by much larger size, thicker head and neck, huge and thick bill, and dark legs and feet. Adult has rufous head and neck (lacking the black head stripes of Purple), dark bill and lores (with yellow in Purple), grey upperparts, broken blackish stripes down foreneck, and deep purplish-chestnut underparts and underwing-coverts. Immature is similar to adult, but has dark grey forehead, yellow on bill and lores, chestnut underparts streaked with buff, dark grey flanks, and dark grey mottling on underwing-coverts. Juvenile has black forehead and crown, paler rufous hind neck and indistinct neck stripes (compared with adult), rufous fringes to feathers of mantle and upperwing-coverts, grey underparts streaked with pale chestnut, and dark grey underwing-coverts. **Voice** Flight call has been described as a gargling rattle or the bellowing of a calf. **HH** Diurnal, solitary and shy. Usually hunts in shallow water, but can wade well out from the shore; sometimes feeds from grass bunds. rivers.



Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* 78–90 cm

Resident and winter visitor? Widespread; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Rakish, with long, thin neck. In flight, compared with Grey Heron, bulge of recoiled neck is very pronounced, protruding feet large, underwing-coverts purplish (adult) or buff (juvenile) and lacks white leading edge to wing. Adult has chestnut head and neck with black stripes, grey mantle and upperwing-coverts, and dark chestnut belly and underwing-coverts. Juvenile has black crown, buffish neck, and brownish mantle and upperwing-coverts with rufous-buff fringes. **Voice** Flight call similar to Grey's, but higher-pitched and not so loud *frarnk*. **HH** Active mainly in early mornings and evenings; sometimes also feeds by day. Shyer than Grey, normally feeding out of sight among dense aquatic vegetation. Most often seen in flight. Hunts alone, usually by standing motionless and waiting; less often by slow stalking in shallow water. Mainly inland waters with tall cover.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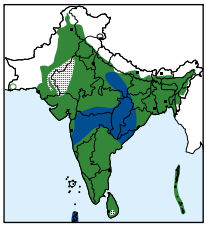
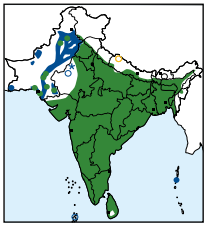


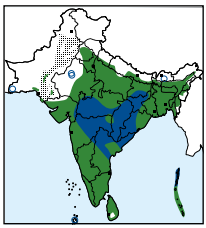
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis* 48–53 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Small and stocky with short yellow bill and short dark legs. Has orange-buff on head, neck and mantle in breeding plumage; base of bill and legs become reddish in breeding condition. All white in non-breeding plumage. **HH** Gregarious when feeding and roosting. Typically seen in flocks around domestic stock and also with Wild Buffalo, feeding on insects disturbed by the animals; often rides on the animals' backs, picking parasitic insects and flies from their hides. Also forages in flooded fields. Unlike other egrets feeds mainly on insects. Damp grassland, paddy-fields, grass banks of village tanks, canals and lakes; also rubbish dumps and forest clearings.



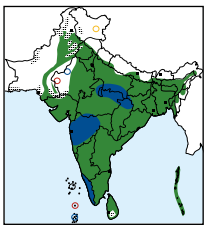
Great Egret *Casmerodius albus* 90–102 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. Compared with Intermediate, is larger and longer-billed, and looks thinner-necked with more angular and pronounced kink to neck. Black line of gape extends behind eye. Bill is black, lores blue and tibia reddish in breeding plumage and has prominent plumes on mantle. In non-breeding plumage, bill yellow and lores pale green. **HH** Generally less sociable than other egrets, and is often solitary when hunting, although will feed communally at concentrated food sources. Roosts communally. Rivers, lakes, marshes, estuaries, mangroves and coral reefs.



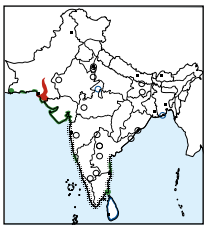
Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia* 65–72 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Smaller than Great, with shorter bill and neck. Black gape-line does not extend beyond eye. Bill is black and lores yellow-green during courtship, and has pronounced plumes on breast and mantle. Has black-tipped yellow bill and yellow lores outside breeding season. **HH** Usually in small flocks which separate when foraging. Hunts chiefly by slow stalking. Roosts communally. Marshes, flooded grassland, well-vegetated pools; also shores of lakes and reservoirs, mangrove swamps and tidal creeks.



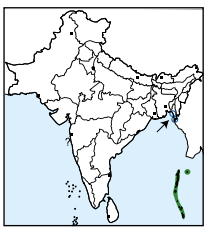
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* 55–65 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Slim and graceful. Has black bill, black legs with yellow feet, and greyish or yellowish lores. In breeding plumage has two elongated nape plumes, and mantle plumes, and lores and feet become reddish during courtship. Bill in non-breeding and immature can be paler and pinkish or greyish at base, or dull yellowish on some; legs can be yellowish or greenish. **HH** Often in flocks when foraging and more sociable than the two larger egrets; also found singly. Roosts communally. Lakes, rivers marshes, flooded paddy-fields, also estuaries, tidal creeks and mangroves; prefers fresh waters.



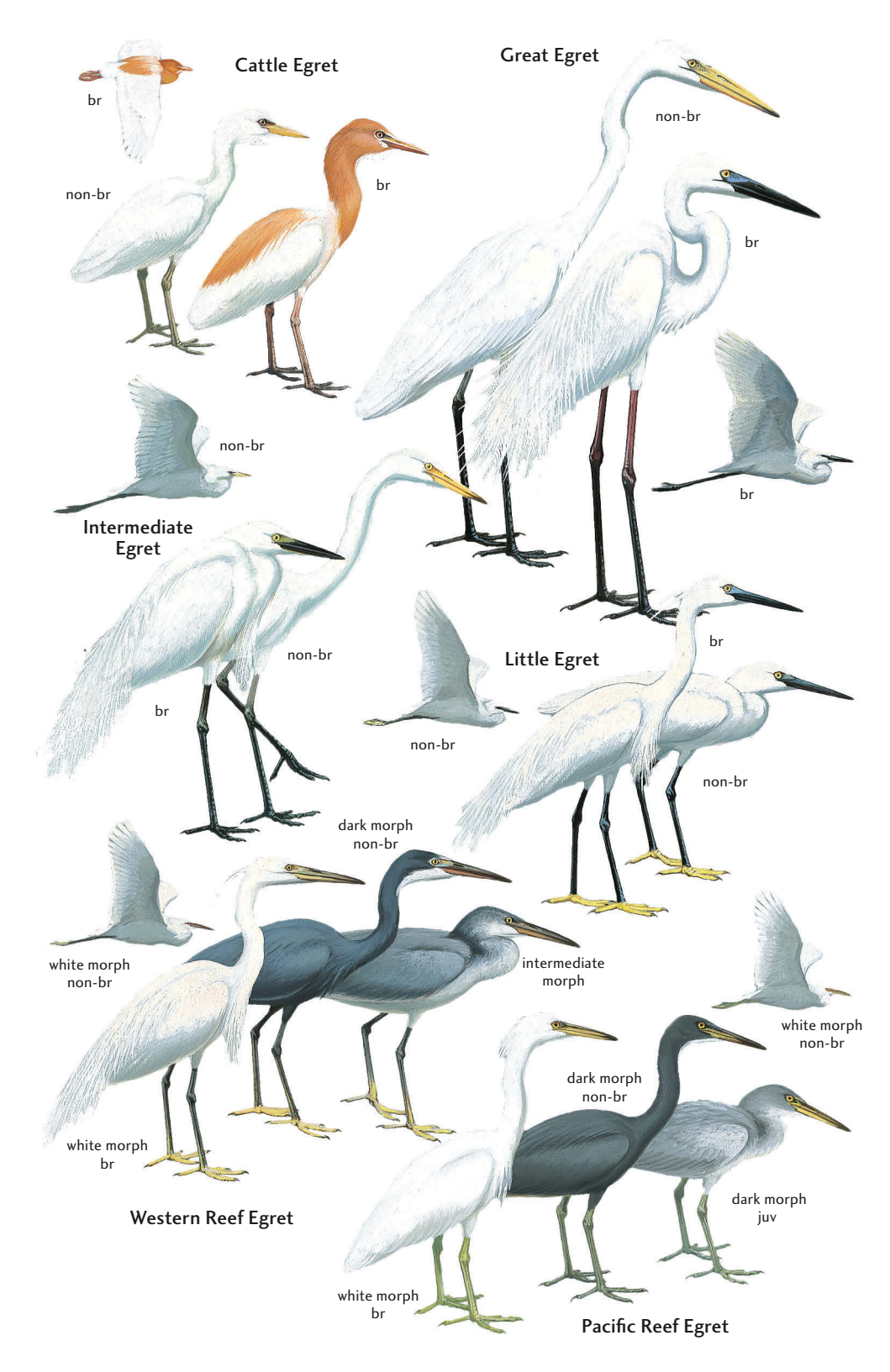
Western Reef Egret *Egretta gularis* 55–65 cm

Resident. Mainly W and SE coast. **ID** Occurs in dark grey, intermediate and white colour morphs. Bill longer and stouter than Little's and usually appearing very slightly downcurved; typically mainly yellowish or brownish-yellow. Legs also slightly shorter and thicker-looking; vary from black with yellow feet to being mainly green. Usually solitary when foraging, but occasionally in twos or threes; sometimes with Little Egrets. **HH** Roosts communally. Diurnal and partly crepuscular. More active than other egrets when hunting, often running, jumping and turning rapidly. At high water sits in hunched posture, waiting for tide to ebb. Seashores, estuaries, mangroves, and tidal creeks; occasionally at fresh waters.



Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra* 58 cm

Resident. Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** Legs shorter and stouter than Western Reef's (with short leg/feet extension in flight), and is stockier, with shorter and thicker neck. Also occurs in dark grey, intermediate and white colour morphs. White throat of dark morph is less conspicuous than in Western Reef. **Voice** A grunted *ork* when feeding and a harsh *squak* when disturbed. **HH** Habits very like those of Western Reef. Rocky coasts, coral beds and sandy shores. **AN** Pacific Reef Heron.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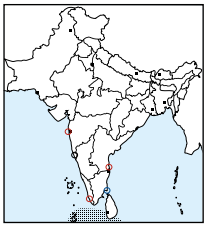
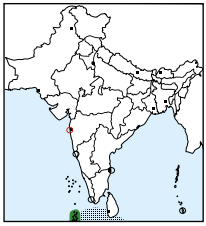


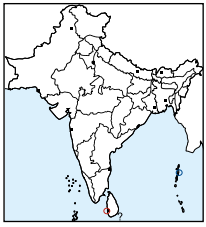
Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor* 85–105 cm

Visitor. Coasts of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID** Adult male is only frigatebird with all-black underparts. Adult female has black cap and bluish bill; also has grey throat and black neck sides, and lacks spur of white on underwing. Juvenile and immature have rufous or white head, blackish breast-band and largely white underparts, which are gradually replaced by adult plumage; typically (but not always) lacks white spur on underwing (shown by all Lesser and some Christmas Island Frigatebirds). **HH** Aerial seabird, rarely landing on water and roosting in trees. In flight can achieve skilful manoeuvres and can soar for long periods with only occasional deep wing-beats. Noted for intercepting boobies, forcing them to disgorge fish and catching the food in mid-air; also capture their own prey by diving vertically to the water surface. Generally a storm-driven visitor to coasts of the subcontinent, often occurring in the monsoon. Pelagic.



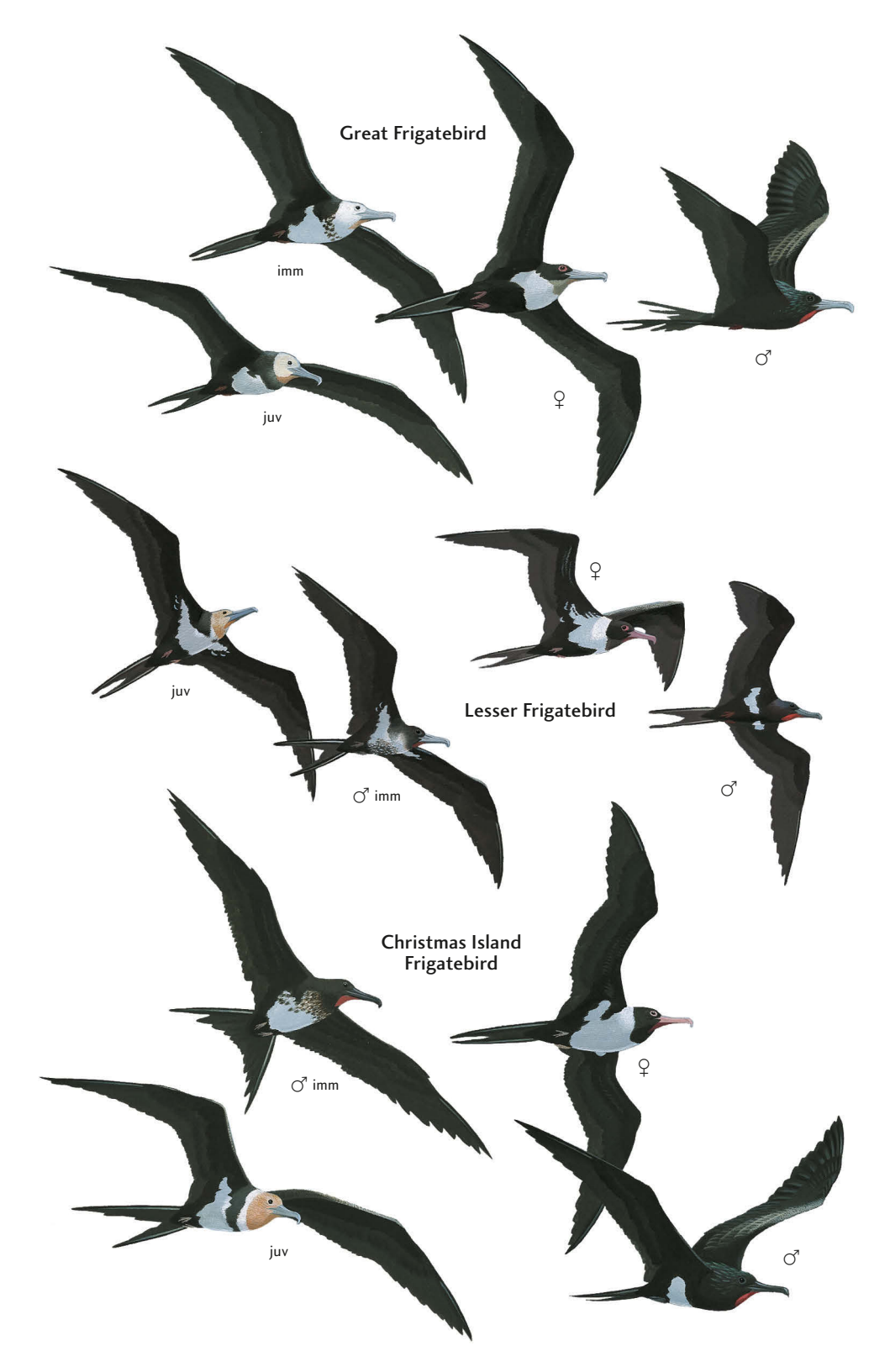
Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel* 70–80 cm

Visitor to coasts of India, Sri Lanka and Maldives; has bred. **ID** Smaller and more finely built than other two frigatebirds. Adult male entirely black except for white spur extending from breast sides onto inner underwing. Adult female has black head including throat, white neck sides, white spur extending from white breast onto inner underwing, and black belly and vent. Juvenile and immature have rufous or white head, blackish breast-band and much white on underparts, which are gradually replaced by adult plumage; always show white spur on underwing (usually lacking on Great). **HH** Habits are like Great's. Pelagic.



Christmas Island Frigatebird *Fregata andrewsi* 90–100 cm

Visitor. Coasts of India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult male has black underparts except for large white patch on belly. Adult female has black head including throat and pink bill; also white neck sides, white spur extending from white breast onto inner underwing, black wedge on side of breast, and white belly and vent. Juvenile has buffish to white head, blackish breast-band, and white underparts, with black head of female and black head and breast of male acquired gradually; some show white spur on underwing (usually lacking on Great), and lower belly always remains white (gradually becoming black on Great). **HH** Habits are like Great Frigatebird's. Pelagic. Globally threatened.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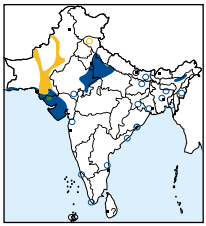
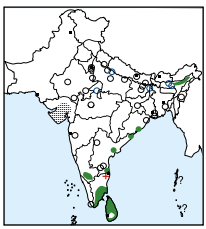


Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* 40–175 cm

Mainly a winter visitor to N subcontinent; breeds in Gujarat. **ID** Adult and immature have black underside to primaries and secondaries which contrast strongly with white (or largely white) underwing-coverts. Feathering of forehead narrower than on Dalmatian Pelican, and tapers to a point at bill-base. Orbital skin is more extensive and contiguous with bill. Legs and feet pinkish. Pouch yellow or orange-yellow (except when young). Adult is generally cleaner and whiter than Dalmatian and Spot-billed Pelicans. Adult breeding has white body and wing-coverts tinged with pink, bright orange-yellow pouch and pinkish skin around eye, and short drooping crest. Adult non-breeding has duller bare parts and lacks pink tinge and white crest. Immature has variable amounts of brown on wing-coverts and scapulars. Juvenile has largely brown head, neck and upperparts, including upperwing-coverts, and brown flight feathers; upperwing appears more uniform brown, and underwing shows pale central panel contrasting with dark inner coverts and flight feathers; greyish pouch becomes yellower with age. **HH** May be found singly, in small flocks or in huge concentrations on larger lakes and lagoons. Often fishes cooperatively by swimming forward in a semicircular formation, driving fish into shallow waters; each bird then scoops up fish from the water into its pouch, before swallowing the food. Roosts in flocks, usually on open sand bars. Large lakes, lagoons and tidal creeks.

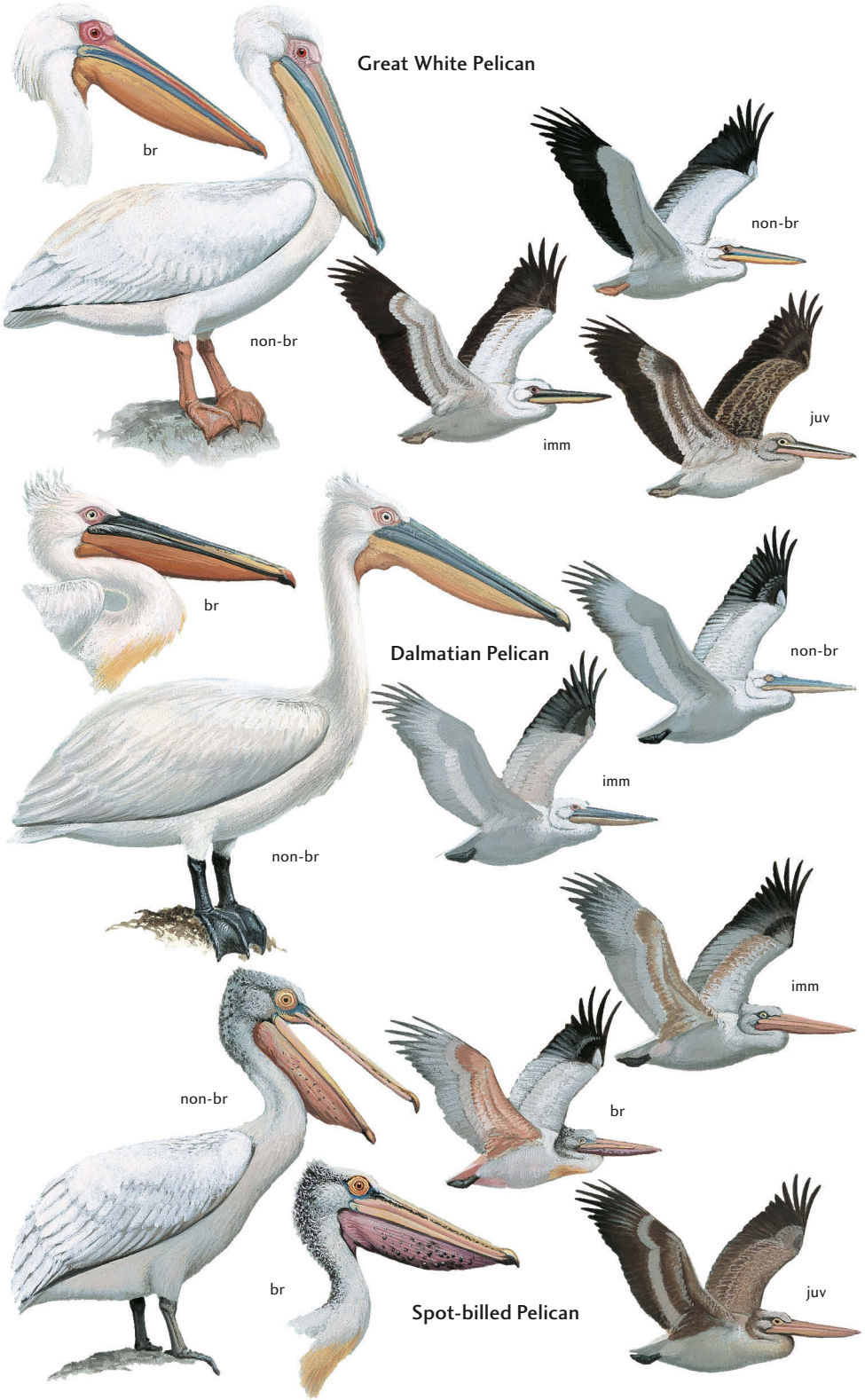
Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* 160–180 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly S Pakistan and NW India. **ID** In all plumages, has greyish underside to secondaries and inner primaries (becoming darker on outer primaries) lacking strong contrast with pale underwing-coverts, and often with whiter central panel. Forehead feathering broader across upper mandible and orbital skin more restricted than on Great White. Legs and feet always dark grey Tufted crest/hind neck usually apparent even on young birds (as Spot-billed). Larger than Spot-billed, with cleaner and whiter appearance at all ages; lacks 'spotting' on upper mandible, and bill usually darker than pouch. Adult breeding has orange to red pouch and purple skin around eye, and curly or bushy crest. Adult non-breeding more dirty white; pouch and skin around eye pale yellow to pinkish. Immature dingier than adult non-breeding, with some pale grey-brown on upperwing-coverts and scapulars. Juvenile has pale grey-brown mottling on hind neck and upperparts, including upperwing-coverts. **HH** Found singly, in pairs and in flocks, but not in such large congregations as Great White. Fishes individually or cooperatively in a flock like Great White. Large lakes, rivers and coastal lagoons. Globally threatened.



Spot-billed Pelican *Pelecanus philippensis* 140 cm

Resident. Breeds in S and NE India and Sri Lanka; widespread in non-breeding season. **ID** Much smaller than Great White and Dalmatian, with dingier appearance, rather uniform pinkish bill and pouch (except in breeding condition), and black spotting on upper mandible (except juveniles). Pale circumorbital skin looks cut off from bill (appears to be wearing goggles). Tufted crest/hind neck usually apparent even on young birds. Underwing pattern similar to that of Dalmatian (and quite different from Great White), showing little contrast between wing-coverts and flight feathers and with paler greater coverts producing distinct central panel. Adult breeding has cinnamon-pink rump, underwing-coverts and undertail-coverts; head and neck appear greyish; has purplish skin in front of eye, and pouch is pink to dull purple and blotched with black. Adult non-breeding dirtier greyish-white, with paler pouch and facial skin. Immature has variable grey-brown markings on upperparts. Juvenile has brownish head and neck, brown mantle and upperwing-coverts (fringed with pale buff), and brown flight feathers; spotting on bill initially lacking (and still indistinct at 12 months). **HH** Gregarious, and fishes alone or cooperatively in a flock like Great White. Large lakes, reservoirs and coastal lagoons and estuaries.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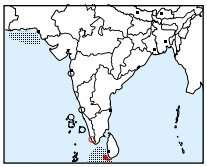
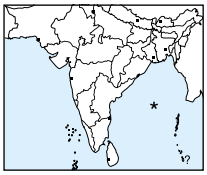


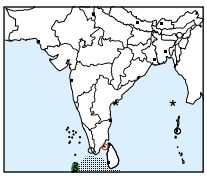
Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* 48 cm

Visitor to coastal waters. **ID** Adult has red bill, white tail-streamers, black barring on mantle and scapulars, and much black on primaries. Juvenile has yellow bill with black tip, and black band across nape; shows more black on primaries, with black primary coverts, compared with juvenile Red-tailed and White-tailed Tropicbirds. **HH** Aerial seabird. Has a graceful pigeon-like flight with flapping and circling alternating with long glides. Usually solitary. Feeds by first hovering to locate fish or squid, and then plunge-diving on half-closed wings. Pelagic.



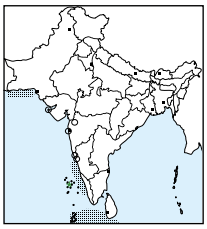
Red-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon rubricauda* 46 cm

Doubtfully breeds in Nicobars. **ID** Adult has red bill and red tail-streamers; lacks black barring on mantle, back and rump; wings largely white (with black primary shafts and markings on tertials). Juvenile has grey or black bill becoming yellower with age, and lacks black nape band; shows less black on primaries and is more heavily barred above than juvenile Red-billed and White-tailed. **HH** Habits like those of Red-billed. Rarely visits ships. Pelagic.



White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus* 39 cm

Resident on Maldives; visitor to coasts of India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Smaller and more graceful than other tropicbirds. Adult has yellow or orange bill, black diagonal bar across inner upperwing, and white tail-streamers. Juvenile has yellow bill, and lacks black band across nape; shows more black on primaries than juvenile Red-tailed. **HH** Habits like those of Red-billed. Often visits ships. Pelagic.

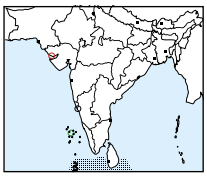


Masked Booby *Sula dactylatra* 81–92 cm

Breeds on Maldives and Lakshadweep?; visitor to W coastal waters. **ID** Large and robust booby. Adult largely white, with black mask and black flight feathers and tail. White head and neck, black tail and black tertials (which complete black trailing edge of wing) help to separate from adult Red-footed Booby at distance. Juvenile has brown head, neck and upperparts, with whitish collar and whitish scaling on upperparts; underbody white, and shows much white on underwing-coverts (with white extending onto primary coverts of underwing; compare with adult and juvenile Brown). Head, upperbody and upperwing-coverts of immature become increasingly white with age. **HH** Forages on the wing, scanning the sea, and on sighting fish or squid it plunge-dives at an angle. Flight is direct, with alternating periods of flapping and gliding. Seen in the region singly or in small groups. Pelagic.

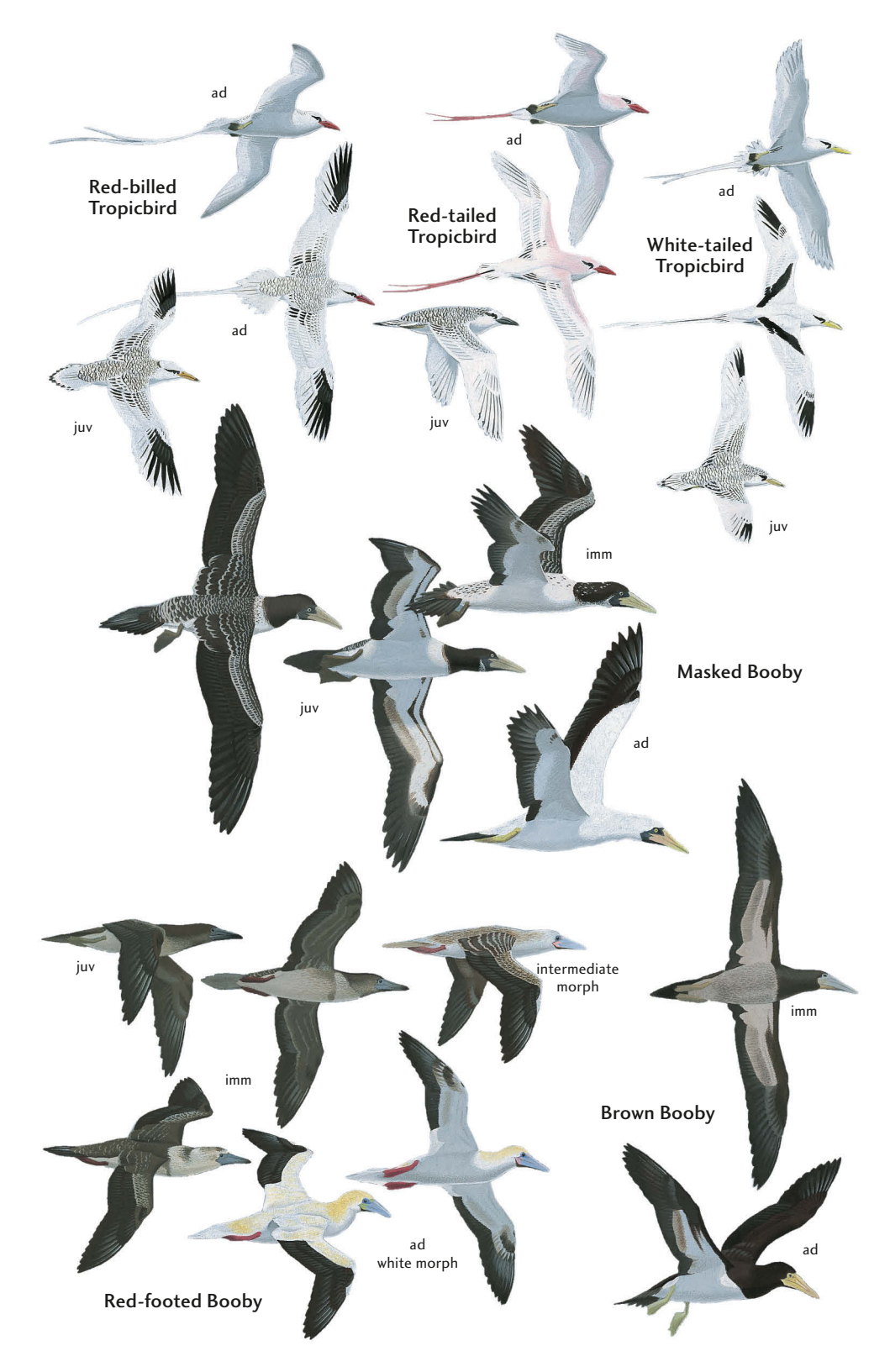
Red-footed Booby *Sula sula* 66–77 cm

Breeds on Maldives and Lakshadweep?; visitor to coastal waters. **ID** Small and graceful booby. White, brown and intermediate morphs occur; white morph most likely to be encountered in Indian Ocean. Adult white morph from adult Masked by smaller size, variable yellow wash on crown and hind neck, bluish bill, lack of black mask (but does show black on chin), and red legs and feet; in flight, also by black carpal patch on underwing, white tail, and white tertials (black trailing edge does not reach body). Brown morph is similar in plumage to juvenile, but has red legs, blue-grey bill and pinkish facial skin. Other morphs occur with white head and neck and/or white rump, tail and undertail-coverts. Juvenile is largely brown with greyish legs; from juvenile Brown Booby by dark underwing and dark bill. Immature variable, with pale head, neck and body, variable breast band, and brown mottling on upperbody and upperwing-coverts. **HH** Flight and feeding habits are similar to those of Masked. Gregarious; occurs in small groups or flocks at good feeding areas. Attracted to ships, and perches on rigging or masts. Partly nocturnal. Pelagic.



Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* 64–74 cm

Breeds on Lakshadweep?; visitor to coasts and coastal waters. **ID** Dark brown, with sharply demarcated white underbody and underwing-coverts. Juvenile has dusky brown underbody, with pale panel across underwing-coverts, but overall appearance is similar to adult. Brown of breast joins brown leading edge of wing (compare with juvenile/immature Masked). **HH** Flight and feeding habits are similar to those of Masked. In the region, generally solitary or in small groups. Feeds inshore, where often perches on rocks and buoys. Pelagic.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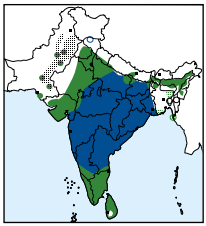
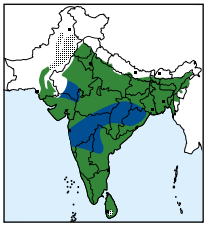


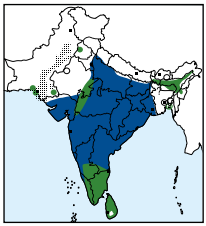
Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* 85–97 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent and Himalayas. **ID** Long, slim head and neck, dagger-like bill, and long tail. Adult breeding has dark brown crown and hind neck, white stripe down side of neck, blackish breast and underparts, lanceolate white scapular streaks, and white streaking on wing-coverts. Duller in non-breeding plumage. Immature browner with indistinct neck stripe and with buffish-white foreneck and blackish underparts, and buff fringes to coverts forming pale panel on upperwing. **HH** Often swims with head and neck above the water and body below. Seen singly, in scattered pairs and sometimes in larger groups. Spends much time drying its spread wings and tail while sitting on a favoured perch. Unlike cormorants, does not leap up before diving, but slowly submerges. Lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, marshes and other inland waters; also mangroves and coastal waters. **AN** Oriental Darter if African and Australasian forms are split.



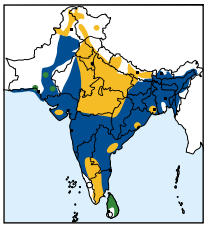
Little Cormorant *Phalacrocorax niger* 51 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent and Himalayas. **ID** Smaller than Indian Cormorant, with shorter bill, rectangular-shaped head (with steep forehead), shorter neck and longer-looking tail. Lacks yellow gular pouch. Adult breeding all black, with white plumes on sides of head. Bill, eyes, facial skin and pouch are black. Non-breeding browner (and lacks white head plumes), with whitish chin, and paler bill and pouch. Immature has whitish chin and throat, and foreneck and breast a shade paler than upperparts, with some pale fringes. Like other cormorants swims with the body low in the water, the neck straight and the head and bill pointing a little upwards. In flight the neck is extended and the head is held slightly above the horizontal. **HH** On smaller waters occurs singly or in small groups; on large inland waters or estuaries often gathers in great flocks. Frequently hunts in parties, often with Indian, driving the fish towards shallower water. Rivers, lakes, reservoirs, village tanks, marshes, canals, estuaries, saltpans and coastal waters.



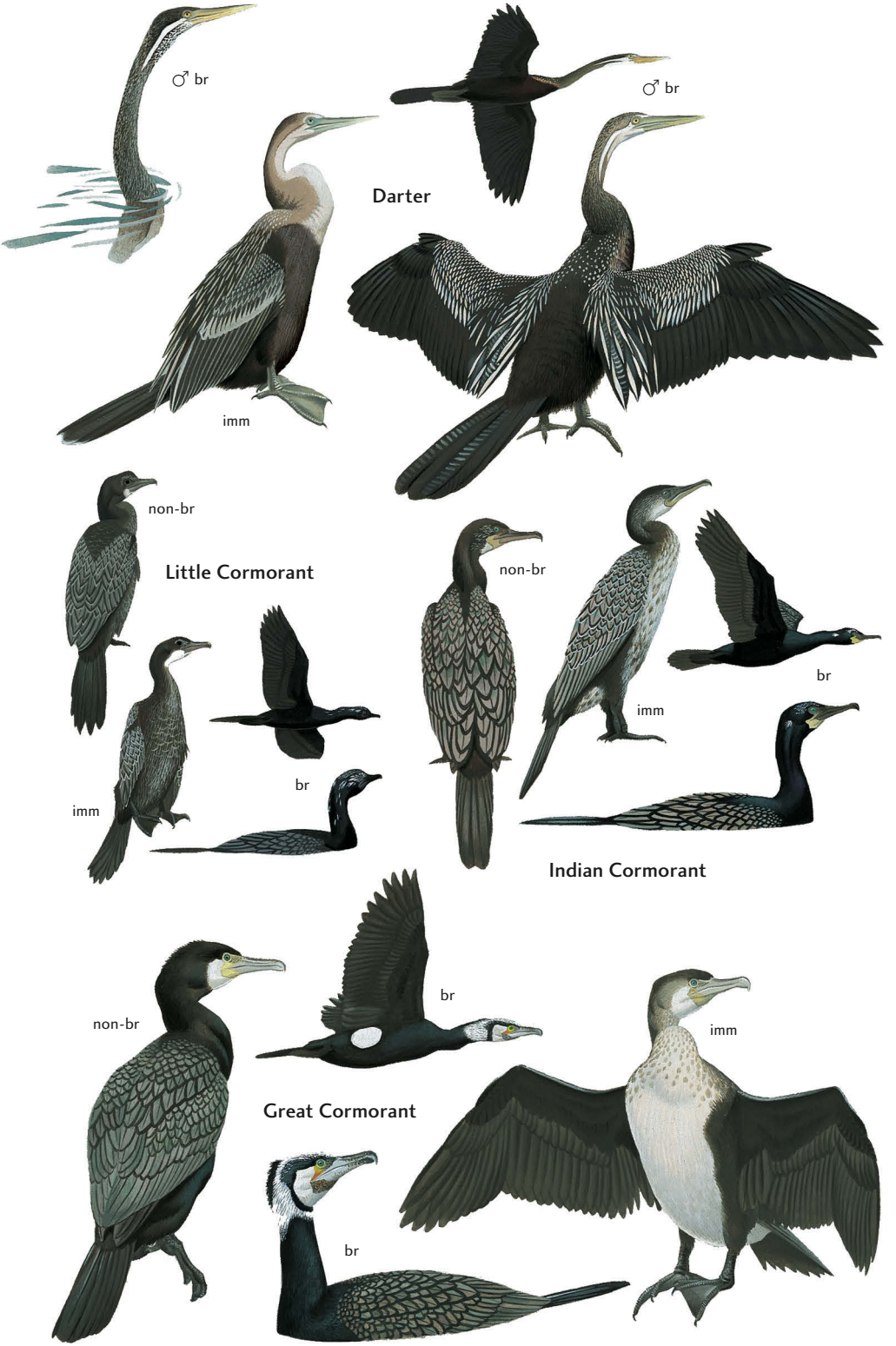
Indian Cormorant *Phalacrocorax fuscicollis* 63 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent and Himalayas. **ID** Smaller and slimmer than Great Cormorant, with thinner neck, slimmer oval-shaped head, finer-looking bill, and proportionately longer tail. In flight, looks lighter, with thinner neck and quicker wing action. Larger than Little, with longer neck, oval-shaped head and longer bill. Adult breeding glossy black, with blue eyes, dark facial and gular skin, tuft of white behind eye and scattering of white filoplumes on neck. Non-breeding lacks white plumes; has whitish throat, yellowish gular pouch, and browner-looking head, neck and underparts. Immature has brown upperparts and whitish underparts. **HH** Flies and swims like a typical cormorant, see Little. Gregarious and often in larger flocks than Great. Frequently fishes with Little. Fresh and salt waters: lakes, rivers, irrigation tanks, estuaries, and saltwater and mangrove creeks.



Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* 80–100 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent and Western Ghats. **ID** Larger and bulkier than Indian, with thicker neck, larger and more angular head, and stouter bill. Adult breeding glossy black, with dark gular skin, red spot at base of bill, white cheeks and throat, extensive white plumes covering much of head, and white thigh patch. Non-breeding lacks white head plumes and thigh patch. Base of bill and gular skin are yellow, and white cheeks and throat patch are more extensive than Indian. Immature similar but browner with underparts dark or extensively whitish or pale buff. **HH** Flies and swims like a typical cormorant, see Little. Usually found singly or in small groups, although sometimes joins fishing flocks of other cormorants. Gathers in large numbers to breed, and often roosts communally in winter. Coastal waters, saltpans, reservoirs, lakes, and large inland lakes and rivers.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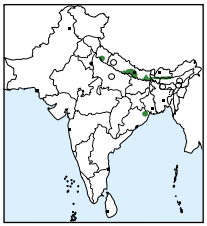
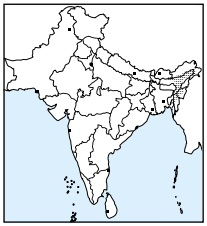


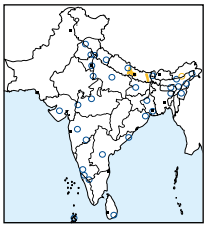
Collared Falconet *Microhierax caerulescens* 18 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Orissa. **ID** Very small. Has rather broad wings and long, square-ended tail. Flies with rapid beats interspersed with long glides. Rather shrike-like when perched. Adult has white collar, black crown and eye-stripe, and rufous-orange underparts. Juvenile has rufous-orange on forehead and supercilium, white throat and yellowish bill. **Voice** A high *kli-kli-kli* or *killi-killi-killi*. **HH**. Found singly, in pairs or small parties, which sometimes huddle together on a branch. Rather crepuscular. Perches on dead branches of a forest tree and makes short, swift darting sorties to seize prey. Often slowly pumps tail and bobs head when perched. Edges and clearings of broadleaved tropical forest.



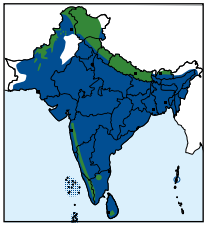
Pied Falconet *Microhierax melanoleucos* 20 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Larger than Collared. Adult has white underparts, and lacks white hind collar. Mask appears broader, and supercilium narrower, than Collared. Juvenile similar but with yellowish bill and orbital skin (black in adult). **Voice** Utters a shrill scream and a low chattering call. **HH** Habits are similar to Collared's, but is a more powerful predator. Forest clearings, tea plantations and wooded foothills.



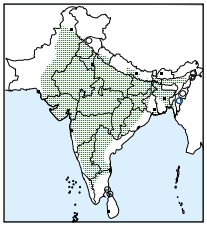
Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni* 29–32 cm

Widespread passage migrant. **ID** Slightly smaller and slimmer than Common Kestrel. Flapping shallower and stiffer. Claws whitish (black on Common). When perched wing-tips reach or nearly reach tip of tail (falling short of tail in Common). Male has uniform blue-grey head (without dark moustachial stripe), unmarked rufous upperparts, blue-grey greater coverts, and almost plain orange-buff underparts. In flight, underwing whiter with more clearly pronounced darker trailing edge and wing-tips; tail often looks more wedge-shaped. First-year male more like Common; best distinguished by structural differences and unmarked rufous mantle and scapulars. Female and juvenile have less distinct moustachial stripe than Common, and lack any suggestion of dark eye-stripe; underwing tends to be cleaner and whiter, with primary bases unbarred (or only lightly barred) and coverts less heavily spotted, and dark primary tips more pronounced. **Voice** A *kee-chee-chee* or *chet-che-che* which is less piercing and more slurred than that of Common. **HH** Hunts in similar manner to Common Kestrel, but usually in small parties or larger flocks and is more agile and graceful in flight. Roosts communally. Open grassland and cultivation. Globally threatened.



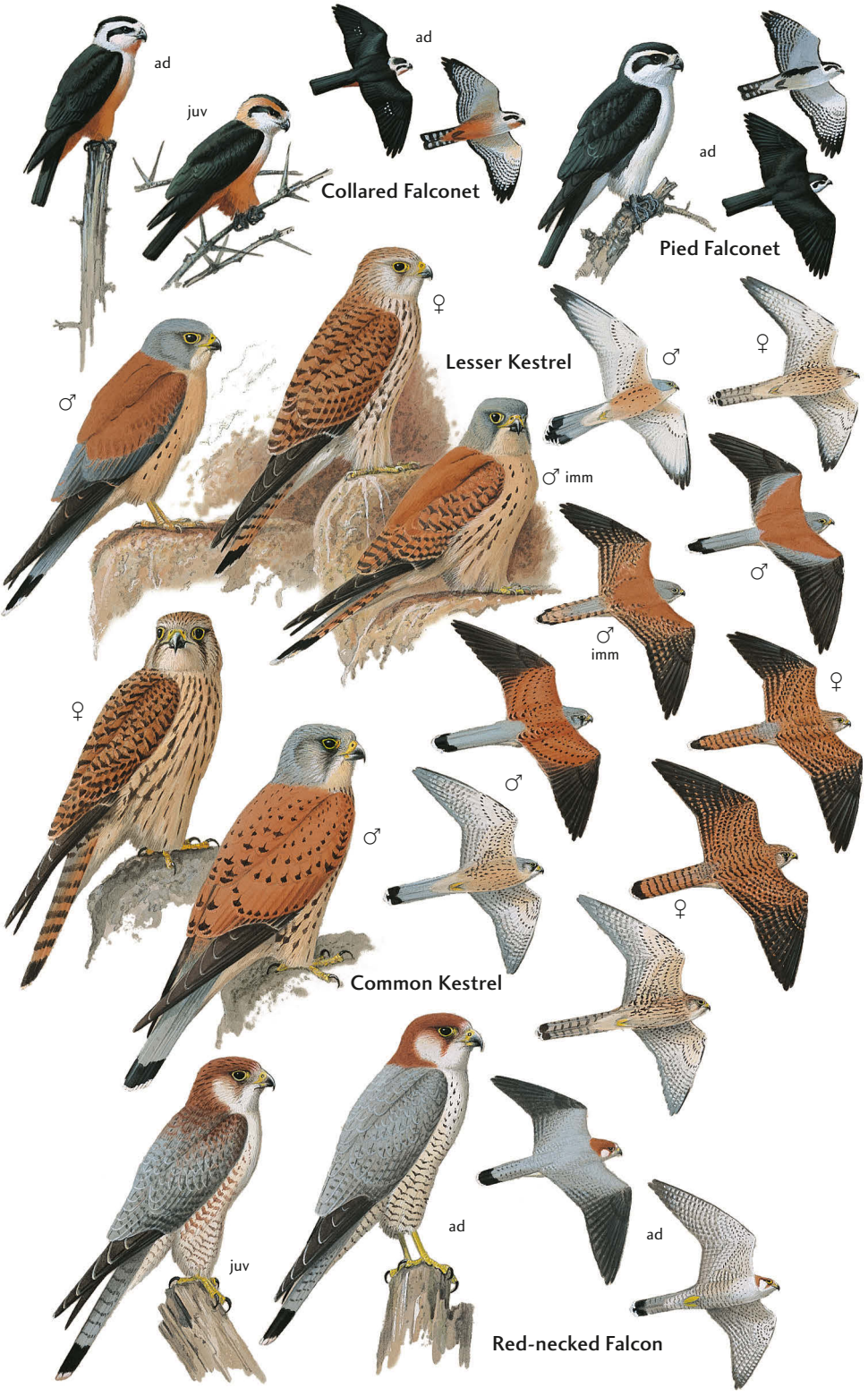
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* 32–35 cm

Resident in mountains of Pakistan, Himalayas and Western Ghats and Sri Lanka; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Long, rather broad tail; wing-tips more rounded than on most falcons. Frequently hovers. Male has greyish head with diffuse dark moustachial stripe, rufous upperparts heavily marked with black, and grey tail with black subterminal band. Female and juvenile have rufous crown and nape streaked with black, diffuse and narrow dark moustachial stripe, rufous upperparts heavily barred and spotted with black, and dark barring on rufous tail; underwing more heavily barred than male's. **Voice** Makes a high-pitched, shrill *kee-kee-kee*. **HH** Usually found singly or in pairs. Characteristically hovers in open country with rapidly beating wings and fanned tail, while scanning the ground for prey. Cultivation, grassland and semi-desert in hills and plains, and open subalpine and alpine slopes.



Red-necked Falcon *Falco chicquera* 31–36 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in most of the northeast, W Pakistan and Sri Lanka. **ID** Powerful falcon with pointed wings and longish tail. Flight usually fast and dashing. Adult has rufous crown, nape and narrow moustachial stripe, pale blue-grey upperparts with fine dark barring, white underparts finely barred with black, and grey tail with broad black subterminal band. In flight, blackish primaries contrast with rest of upperwing. Sexes alike, with female larger. Juvenile is similar but darker, with fine dark shaft-streaking on crown, fine rufous fringes to upperparts, and underparts with fine rufous-brown barring. **Voice** Has a shrill *ki-ki-ki-ki-ki,* rasping *yak, yak, yak* and screaming *tiririri, tiriririeee*. **HH** A dashing falcon. Usually hunts cooperatively in pairs, one bird pursuing prey and the other cutting off its escape. Cultivation with groves, open country with trees and groves at desert edges.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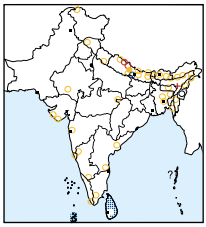
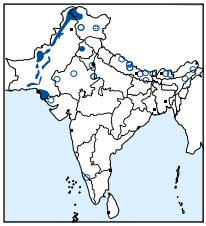


Amur Falcon *Falco amurensis* 28–31 cm

Widespread passage migrant; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** In all plumages, has red to pale orange cere, eye-ring, legs and feet. Similar in shape to Eurasian Hobby but with slightly more rounded wing-tips, and slightly longer tail. Male dark grey, with rufous thighs and undertail-coverts and white underwing-coverts. First-year male shows mixture of adult male and juvenile characters. Female has dark grey upperparts, short moustachial stripe, whitish underparts with some dark barring and spotting, and orange-buff thighs and undertail-coverts; uppertail barred; underwing white with strong dark barring and dark trailing edge. Juvenile is similar to female but has rufous-buff fringes to upperparts, rufous-buff streaking on crown, and boldly streaked underparts. **Voice** Utters a shrill, screaming *kew-kew-kew* when settling in to roost, continuing more or less throughout the night. **HH** Highly gregarious and crepuscular falcon. Forms communal roosts, often with Lesser Kestrels. Hunts by hawking insects and by hovering like Common Kestrel. Open country.

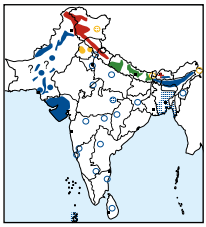
Sooty Falcon *Falco concolor* 33–36 cm

Summer visitor. Makran coast, Pakistan. **ID** Slim, with very long wings and tail (latter wedge-shaped at tip). Flight is swift with strong deep wing-beats, interspersed with gliding and soaring. Adult entirely pale grey with blackish flight feathers; older males can be almost black. Juvenile has dark mask and moustachial and buffish cheeks, narrow buff fringes to upperparts, and yellowish-brown underparts and underwing-coverts which are diffusely streaked. Uppertail is unbarred in both adult and juvenile. **Voice** Alarm call near nest is a plaintive chatter similar to that of Common Kestrel; also has a shrill, loud *kreeee-ah kreeee-ah*. **HH** Most often seen hunting flying prey at dusk. Very swift and agile in pursuit. Desert and arid coastal areas and islands.



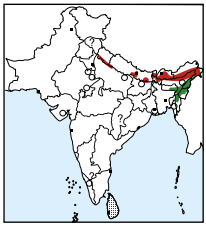
Merlin *Falco columbarius* 25–30 cm

Winter visitor. N subcontinent. **ID** Small and compact, with short, pointed wings. Wing-tips fall noticeably short of tail when perched. Fine supercilium and weak moustachial apparent in all plumages. Male has blue-grey upperparts, broad black subterminal tail-band, diffuse patch of rufous-orange on nape, and rufous-orange streaking on underparts. Female and juvenile have brown upperparts with variable buffish markings, heavily streaked underparts, and strongly barred uppertail. **HH** Normally found singly. Usually hunts in low flight with fast wing-beats and short glides. Various open country habitats, including cultivation, scrub and scrub desert.



Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* 30–36 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Slim, with long pointed wings and medium-length tail. Hunting flight swift and powerful, with stiff beats interspersed with short glides. Adult has broad black moustachial stripe, cream underparts with bold blackish streaking, and rufous thighs and undertail-coverts. Juvenile has dark brown upperparts with buffish fringes, pale buffish underparts which are more heavily streaked, and lacks rufous thighs and undertail-coverts. **HH** Markedly crepuscular. Graceful falcon, with fast acrobatic flight in pursuit of flying prey. Often perches on isolated trees. Well-wooded areas; also open country and cultivation in winter.



Oriental Hobby *Falco severus* 27–30 cm

Resident. Mainly Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Similar to Eurasian in structure, flight action and appearance, although slightly stockier, with shorter tail. Slimmer in wings and body than Peregrine. Adult has complete blackish hood (lacking white cheeks of Eurasian Hobby), bluish-black upperparts and sides of breast (suggesting half-collar), and unmarked rufous underparts and underwing-coverts. Straight cut to black cheeks and absence of any barring on underparts help to distinguish from *peregrinator* subspecies of Peregrine but some *peregrinator* in southern India and Sri Lanka can be more similar with all dark hood and largely unmarked underparts, when finer build of Oriental is best feature. Juvenile has browner upperparts, and heavily streaked rufous-buff underparts. **Voice** Gives a rapid *ki-ki-ki-ki*. **HH** Habits are very similar to Eurasian Hobby's. Open or lightly wooded hills.

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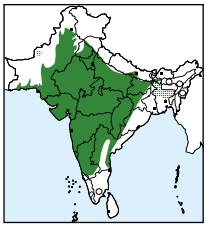
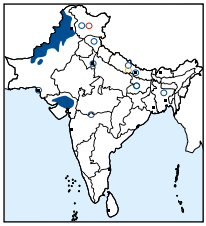


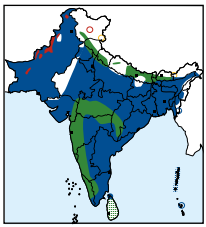
Laggar Falcon *Falco jugger* 43–46 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NE and E subcontinent and Sri Lanka. **ID** Large falcon, although smaller, slimmer-winged and less powerful than Saker Falcon. Adult has rufous crown, dark stripe through eye extending to nape, narrow but long and prominent dark moustachial stripe, brownish-grey to dark brown upperparts (can be greyer than illustrated), and rather uniform uppertail. Underparts and underwing-coverts vary, can be largely white or heavily streaked, but lower flanks and thighs usually wholly dark brown; typically shows dark panel across underwing-coverts. Juvenile similar to adult, but crown duller, moustachial is broader, and underparts very heavily streaked (almost entirely dark on belly, flanks and underwing-coverts), and has greyish bare parts; differs from juvenile Peregrine in paler crown, finer moustachial stripe, more heavily marked underparts, and unbarred uppertail. **HH** Usually seen perched on a regularly used vantage point, such as treetop or post. Also circles high overhead. Hunts mainly by flying rapidly and low and seizing prey on the ground. Open arid country, cultivation, thorn scrub, scrub desert, rocky escarpments and sand dunes in plains and low hills.



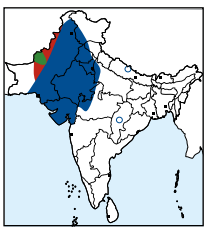
Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* 50–58 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly Pakistan and Gujarat. **ID** Large falcon with long wings and long tail. Wingbeats slow in level flight, with lazier flight action than Peregrine. At rest, tail extends noticeably beyond closed wings (wings fall just short of tail-tip on Laggar and are equal to tail on Peregrine). Adult has paler crown, less clearly defined moustachial stripe and paler rufous-brown upperparts than Laggar; underparts generally not so heavily marked as on Laggar, with flanks and thighs usually clearly streaked and not appearing wholly brown (although some overlap exists); outer tail feathers more prominently barred. Juvenile (not illustrated) has greyish cere, and greyish legs and feet; otherwise similar to adult, but crown more heavily marked, moustachial stripe stronger, underparts more heavily streaked, and upperparts darker brown; some probably indistinguishable from juvenile Laggar. *F. c. milvipes*, a rare winter visitor, has broad orange-buff barring on upperparts, and mainly barred rather than streaked flanks and underwing-coverts. **HH** Spends long periods perched on rocks. When hunting flies fast and low and strikes prey on ground; also stoops on aerial prey like Peregrine. Desert and semi-desert, mainly in foothills and mountains; also in the Indus plains. Globally threatened.



Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* 38–51 cm

Widespread resident and winter visitor. **ID** Heavy-looking falcon with broad-based and pointed wings and short, broad-based tail. Flight strong, with stiff, shallow beats and occasional short glides. *F. p. calidus*, a winter visitor throughout the subcontinent, has slate-grey upperparts, broad and clean-cut black moustachial stripe, and whitish underparts with narrow blackish barring; juvenile *calidus* (not illustrated) has browner upperparts, heavily streaked underparts, broad moustachial stripe, and barred uppertail. May show pale supercilium. *F. p. peregrinator*, resident throughout subcontinent, has dark grey upperparts with more extensive black hood (and less pronounced moustachial stripe), and rufous underparts with dark barring on belly and thighs; juvenile *peregrinator* has darker brownish-black upperparts than adult, and paler underparts with heavy streaking. In southern India and Sri Lanka, *peregrinator* can show almost complete black hood, lacking distinct moustachial, and almost uniform underparts. **HH** Bold falcon, highly skilful in flight. Pursues flying prey rapidly, finally rises above it and stoops with terrific force, wings almost closed. Breeds in rugged hills and mountains; winters around large lakes, rivers, marshes, sea cliffs, coastal lagoons and mangroves.



Barbary Falcon *Falco* (*peregrinus*) *pelegrinoides* 33–44 cm

Confined as a breeder to N and W Pakistan and wintering east to NW India. **ID** Adult has pale blue-grey upperparts, buffish underparts with only sparse streaking and barring, rufous on crown and nape, a fine pale supercilium, and a narrow dark moustachial stripe. In flight, underwing appears pale with dark wing-tips and crescent-shaped carpel patch. Possibly confusable with Red-necked Falcon, but larger and stockier, lacks barring on underparts, has more evenly barred tail, and at rest wing-tips reach tail tip (falling short of tail in Red-necked). Juvenile has darker brown upperparts with narrow rufous-buff fringes, heavily streaked underparts and underwing-coverts, and only a trace of rufous on forehead and supercilium. **HH** Fast and powerful falcon. Mainly desert and semi-desert; favours open country with rocky hills.

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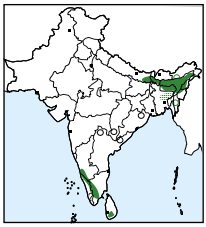
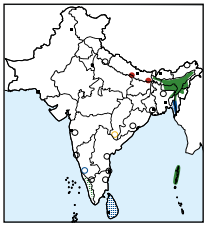


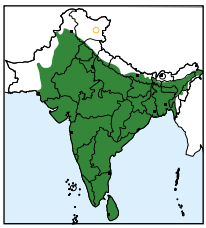
Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni* 46 cm

Resident. E Himalayas, hills of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Long and erect white-tipped crest. Broad wings (pinched in at base) and fairly long tail. Greyish (male) or pale rufous (female) head, indistinct gular stripe, rufous-barred underparts and underwing-coverts, and bold barring across primary tips. At rest, closed wings extend well down tail (compare with Crested Goshawk). Juvenile has dark streaking on head and breast, and narrower dark barring on tail. **Voice** A *kip-kip-kip* or *kikiya, kikiya* uttered in display flight; also a plaintive mewing *pee-ow*. **HH** Crepuscular and elusive, keeping mostly within cover. Tropical and subtropical broadleaved evergreen forest.



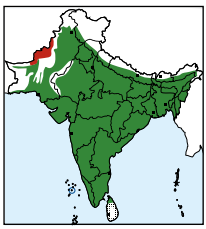
Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes* 33 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE and S India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Largely black, with long crest, white breast-band, rufous barring on underparts, and greyish underside to primaries contrasting with black underwing-coverts. Wings are broad and rounded and tail medium length. Flight corvid like, interspersed with short glides on flat wings. Male has more extensive patch of white on upperwing (extending onto secondaries) compared with female. **Voice** A loud, shrill, high-pitched tcheeoua, often repeated. **HH** Rather crepuscular. Groups of up to five may be seen circling over forest. Tropical broadleaved evergreen forest with glades or broad streams running through.



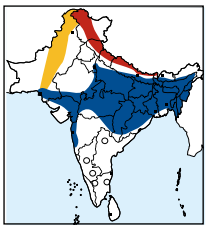
Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* 31–35 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Small size. Grey and white with black 'shoulders'. Flight buoyant, with much hovering. Juvenile has brownish-grey upperparts with pale fringes, with less distinct shoulder patch. **Voice** Makes weak whistling notes. **HH** Hunts by quartering open ground, hovering at intervals with wings held high over back and beaten rather slowly. Grassland interspersed with cultivation or with scattered trees, and scrub desert. **AN** Black-shouldered Kite.



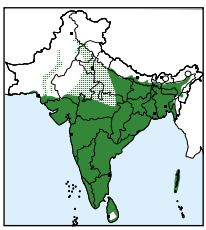
Black Kite *Milvus migrans* 58–66 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Shallow tail-fork. Much manoeuvring of arched wings and twisting of tail in flight. Dark rufous-brown, with variable whitish crescent at primary bases on underwing, and a pale band across the median coverts on the upperwing. Juvenile has broad whitish or buffish streaking on the head and underparts. **Voice** Has a shrill, almost musical whistle *ewe-wir-r-r-r-r*. **HH** Gregarious throughout the year. Mainly occurs around cities, towns and villages, also mountains.



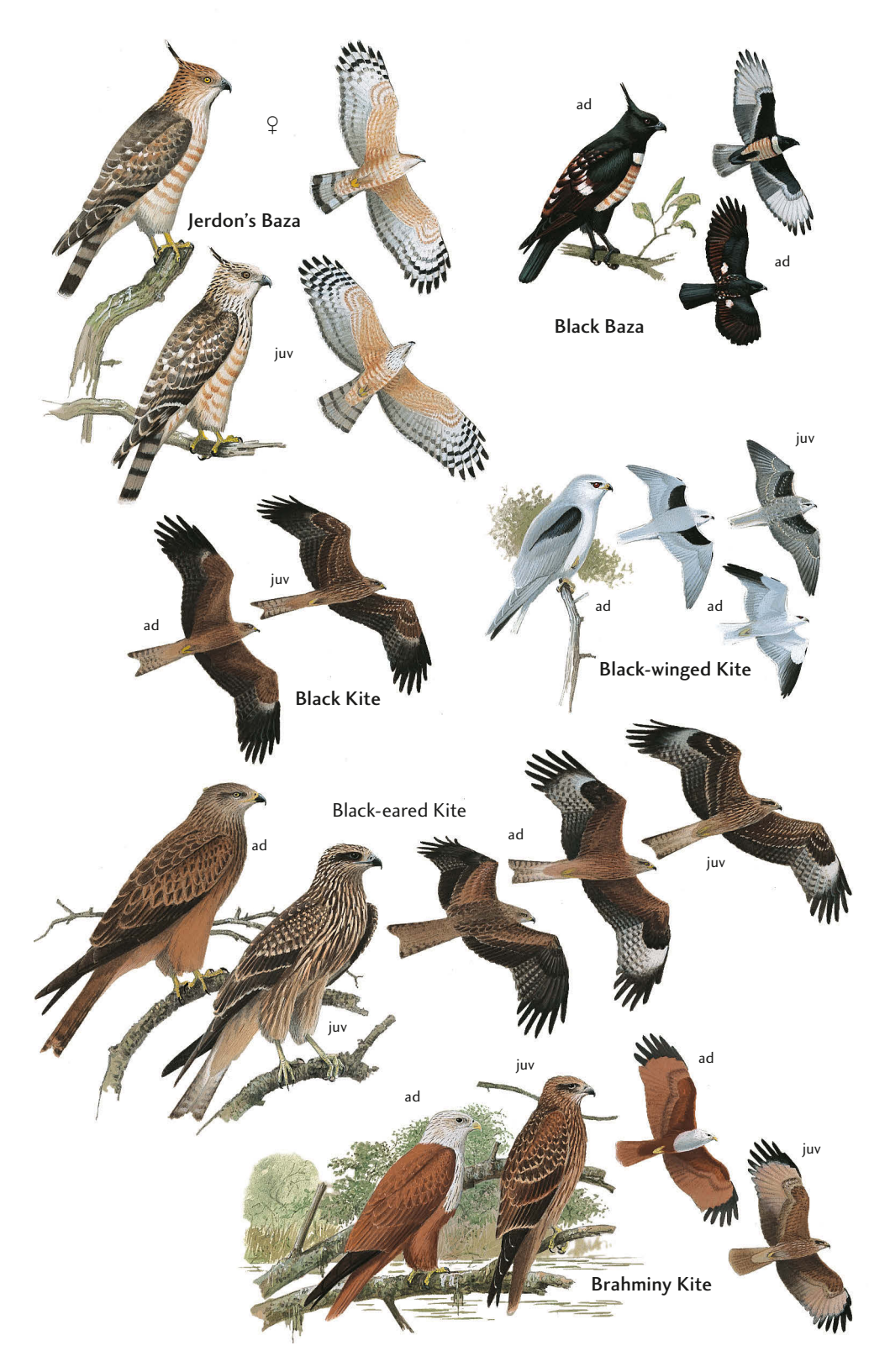
Black-eared Kite *Milvus* (*migrans*) *lineatus* 61–66 cm

Breeding visitor to Himalayas; winters widely in NW, N, NE and C subcontinent. **ID** Larger than Black Kite, with broader wings and generally more prominent whitish patch at base of primaries on underwing (but note this is variable in Black). Shows more pronounced dark mask, with paler crown and throat. Belly and vent are also paler (but some Black can be very similar). Juvenile is more heavily streaked than juvenile Black. **Voice** Makes squealing whistles. **HH** Habits similar to Black Kite's. Open country, mountains, around water; also around habitation.



Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* 48 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Small size and kite-like flight. Wings usually angled at carpals. Tail rounded. Adult mainly chestnut, with white head, neck and breast. Juvenile mainly brown, with pale streaking on head, mantle and breast, large pale patch at base of primaries on underwing, and pale brown and unmarked underside to tail. **Voice** Utters a nasal, drawn-out, slightly undulating *kyerrh*. **HH** Frequently perches on tall tree overlooking water. Vicinity of water, fresh or salt: marshes, flooded paddy-fields, tanks, reservoirs, rivers, lakes, estuaries, harbours, coastal lagoons, mangroves and fishing villages.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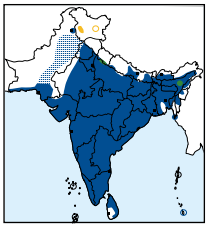
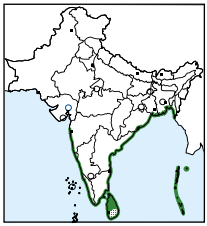


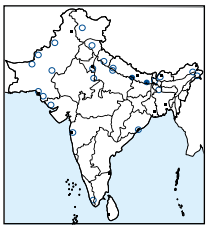
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* 55–58 cm

Widespread in winter. **ID** Long wings, typically angled at carpals, and short tail. Has whitish head with black stripe through eye, white underbody and underwing-coverts, and black carpal patches. **HH** Captures fish in a powerful shallow dive with feet first. Major rivers, lakes, large reservoirs, coastal lagoons and estuaries.



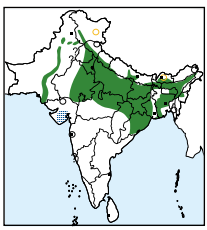
White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* 66–71 cm

Resident. Mainly coasts and offshore islands. **ID** Soars and glides with wings pressed forward and in pronounced V. Distinctive shape, with slim head, bulging secondaries, and short wedge-shaped tail. Adult has white head and underparts, grey upperparts, white underwing-coverts contrasting with black remiges, and mainly white tail. Juvenile has pale head, dark breast band, whitish tail with dark subterminal band and pale wedge on inner primaries. Immatures show mixture of juvenile and adult features. **Voice** Loud, far-carrying and goose-like honking, *ank... ank... ank,* and faster and more duck-like *ka, ka-kaaa*. **HH** Frequently soars, circling at great heights. Often seen on a prominent perch, usually near water. Chiefly coasts and offshore islands.



White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* 70–90 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Huge, with broad parallel-edged wings, short wedge-shaped tail, protruding head and neck, and heavy bill. Soars and glides with wings level. Adult has yellow bill, pale head, and white tail. Juvenile is mainly blackish-brown with whitish centres to tail feathers, pale patch on axillaries, and variable pale band across underwing-coverts; bill becomes yellow with age. **Voice** Rather vocal; normal call is a quick series of metallic yapping notes. **HH** Spends most of the time perched on stump or ground near water. Inhabits coasts, large lakes and rivers.



Pallas's Fish Eagle *Haliaeetus leucoryphus* 76–84 cm

Resident. N subcontinent. **ID** Soars and glides with wings flat. Long, broad wings and protruding (rather small) head and neck. Adult has pale head and neck, dark brown upperwing and underwing, and mainly white tail with broad black terminal band. Juvenile less bulky, looks slimmer-winged, longer-tailed and smaller-billed than juvenile White-tailed; has dark mask, pale band across underwing-coverts, pale patch on underside of inner primaries, all-dark tail (lacking pale inner webs of White-tailed), and pale crescent on uppertail-coverts. Older immatures have more uniform underwing and whitish tail with mottled dark band. **Voice** Commonest call is a hoarse bark, *kvo kvok kvok*. **HH** Rather sluggish, perching for long periods close to water. Mainly larger rivers and lakes, also tidal creeks and mangroves. Globally threatened.

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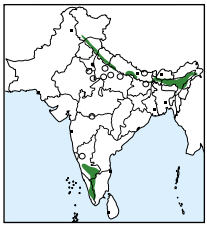
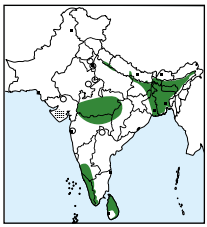


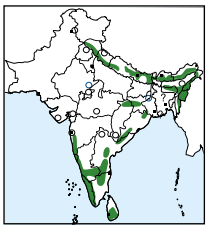
Lesser Fish Eagle *Icthyophaga humilis* 64 cm

Resident. Himalayas and SW India. **ID** Small, with broad wings and short tail, and rather small and protruding head and neck. Soars with wings held slightly raised and curved forwards. Smaller than Grey-headed Fish Eagle, with shorter tail. Adult differs from Grey-headed in having dark tail (tail appears uniform brown above; from below shows greyish base with slightly darker subterminal band). Juvenile browner than adult, with pale underwing and paler base to tail. Lacks prominent streaking on head and underparts of juvenile Grey-headed Fish Eagle, has less pronounced barring on underside of flight feathers and less pronounced dark tail band. **Voice** Gives a characteristic penetrating plaintive wail, *pheeow-pheeoow-pheeow* and a shorter *pheeo-pheeo* intermittently repeated during the breeding season. **HH** Forested streams and lakes in the terai and foothills.



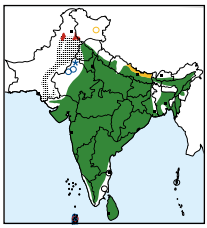
Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Icthyophaga ichthyaetus* 69–74 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Larger than Lesser, with longer tail. Adult told from Lesser by largely white tail with broad black subterminal band. Also darker and browner upperparts and deeper rufous-brown breast. Juvenile has boldly streaked head and underparts, diffuse brown tail barring, and pale underwing with dark barring to flight feathers and pronounced dark trailing edge. **Voice** Gives a squawk *kwok, kuwok* or *kuwonk,* or harsh shrieks. In display flight, gives an eerie series of far-carrying, dreamy *tiu-weeeu* notes. **HH** Near slow-running rivers and streams, lakes, reservoirs and tidal lagoons in wooded country.



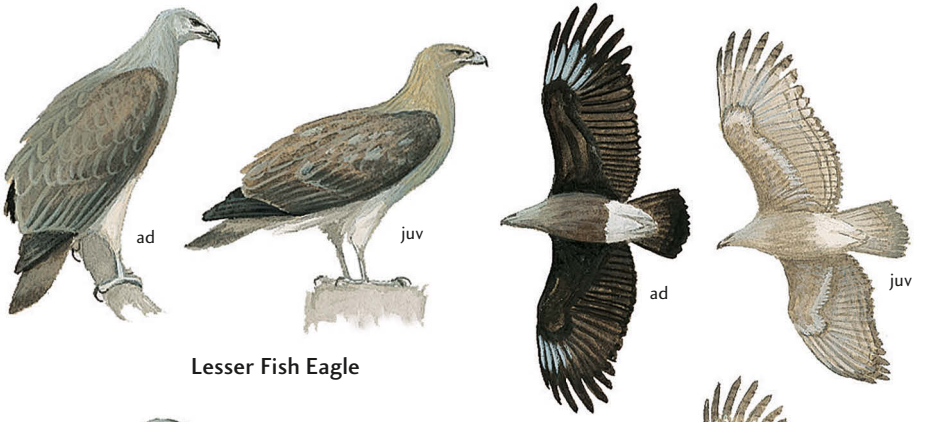
Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis* 69–81 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Distinctive wing shape and long tail. Flies with wings raised in V, with primaries upturned. At rest, long wings extend to tip of tail. Adult dark brownish-black, with striking yellow cere and feet; in flight, shows whitish barring on uppertail-coverts, and faint greyish barring on tail and underside of remiges (cf. dark morph of Changeable Hawk Eagle). Juvenile as adult; may show indistinct pale streaking to head and underparts. **HH** Hills and mountain forests; also mangroves in Bangladesh.

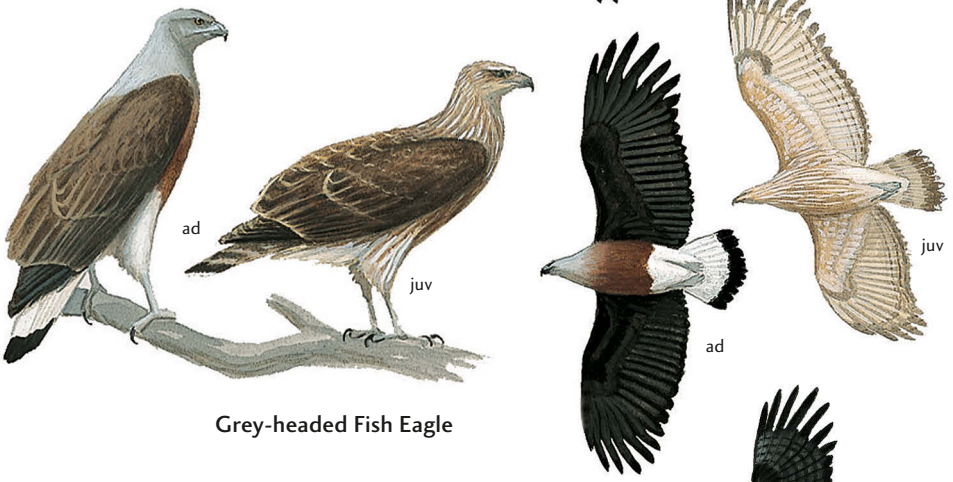


Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* 57–60 cm

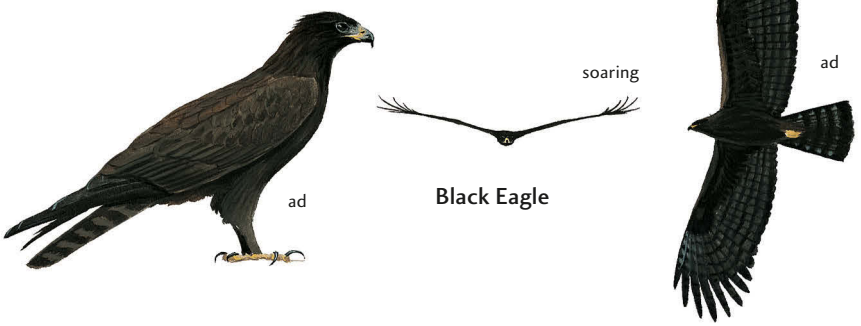
Widespread resident; absent in parts of NW and NE subcontinent and SE India. **ID** Tail long and broad, and has narrow neck, small head and bill, and short bare tarsi. Soars with wings flat. Has small crest. Underparts and underwing-coverts range from dark brown through rufous to white, and unmarked, streaked or barred; often shows dark moustachial stripe and gular stripe, and gorget of streaking across lower throat. Lacks dark carpal patch. Male has grey face, two black tail-bands, usually three black underwing bands, and brown iris. Female has browner face and upperparts, three black tail-bands, four narrower black underwing bands, and yellow iris. Juvenile has narrower underwing banding, three or more tail-bands, and extensive dark tips to primaries; cere yellow (grey on adult) and iris dark. Resident *ruficollis* has more pronounced crest than migrant *orientalis,* and in N and C India is noticeably smaller. **Voice** A high-pitched screaming whistle *wheeew.* **HH** Well-wooded country. **AN** Crested Honey-Buzzard.



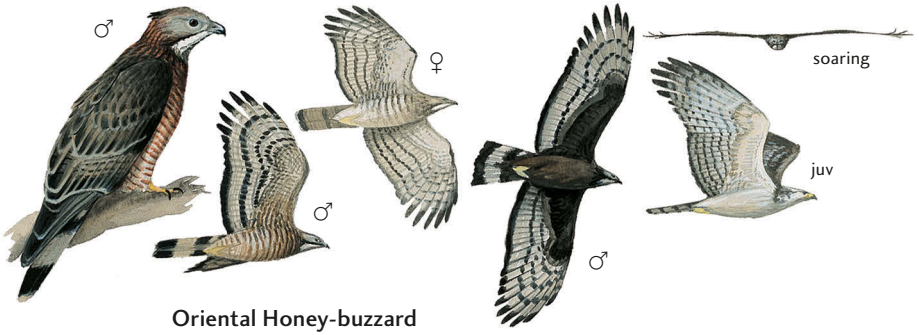
Lesser Fish Eagle



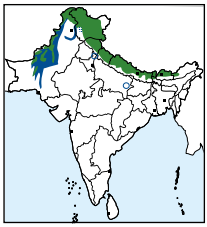
Grey-headed Fish Eagle



Black Eagle

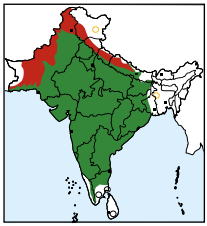


Oriental Honey-buzzard



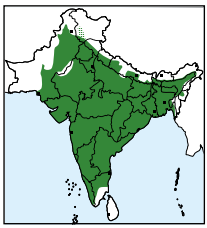
Bearded Vulture *Gypaetus barbatus* 100–115 cm

Resident. Pakistan and Himalayas. **ID** Huge size, long and narrow pointed wings, and large wedge-shaped tail. Adult has pale head with black mask and beard, greyish-black upperparts, wings and tail, and cream or rufous-orange underparts contrasting with black underwing-coverts. Juvenile has blackish head and neck and grey-brown underparts. **HH** Spends long periods soaring. Highly manoeuvrable in flight. Mountains. **AN** Lammergeier.



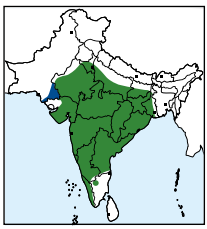
Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus* 60–70 cm

Resident. Widespread in Pakistan, Nepal and India, except the northeast. **ID** Small vulture with long, pointed wings, small and pointed head, and wedge-shaped tail. Adult mainly dirty white, with bare yellowish face and black flight feathers. Juvenile blackish-brown with bare grey face. With maturity, tail, body and wing-coverts become whiter and face yellower. **HH** Spends the day soaring and gliding in search of food. Towns, villages and city outskirts, especially around rubbish dumps and slaughter-houses. Globally threatened.



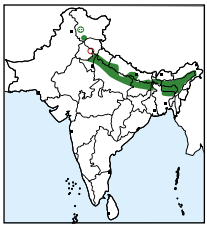
White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis* 75–85 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Smallest of the *Gyps* vultures. Adult mainly blackish, with white neck-ruff, white rump and back, and white underwing-coverts. Juvenile dark brown with streaking on underparts and upperwing-coverts, dark rump and back, whitish head and neck, and all-dark bill. In flight, underbody and underwing-coverts of juvenile darker than Indian or Slender-billed. Juvenile similar in colour to juvenile Himalayan, but smaller and less heavily built, with narrower wings and shorter tail; underparts less heavily streaked, and lacks prominent streaking on mantle and scapulars. **HH** Gregarious all year. Often soars at great heights. Spends much time hunched on treetops or buildings. Cities, towns and villages. Globally threatened.



Indian Vulture *Gyps indicus* 89–103 cm

Resident. SE Pakistan, through hills of India east to West Bengal and south to Kerala. **ID** Key features of adult are sandy-brown body and upperwing-coverts (Griffon Vulture is more rufescent), blackish head and neck with sparse white down on hind neck (Griffon has more extensive covering of white down), white downy ruff, and yellowish bill, and lacks pale streaking on underparts; in flight, lacks broad whitish band across median underwing-coverts shown by Griffon, and has whiter rump and back. See account for Slender-billed for differences from that species. Much smaller and less heavily built than Himalayan, with darker head and neck, white ruff, and dark legs and feet. Juvenile has feathery buff neck-ruff, dark bill and cere with a pale culmen, and the head and neck have whitish down; distinguished from juvenile Eurasian Griffon by pale culmen, darker brown upperparts with more pronounced pale streaking, and paler and less rufescent coloration to streaked underparts. Best features to distinguish juvenile Indian from juvenile White-rumped are paler and less clearly streaked underparts, paler upper- and underwing-coverts, and whitish rump and back. **HH** Habits like White-rumped's. Cities, towns and villages. Globally threatened. **AN** Long-billed Vulture.



Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris* 93–100 cm

Resident. Lower Himalayas from NW India east through Nepal; NE India and Ganges delta. **ID** Bill, head and neck are more slender than in Indian, and has angular crown (and prominent ear canals). Darker and colder brown than Indian, and body appears more slender, with prominent white thigh-patches (especially prominent in flight). In flight, trailing edges of the wings appear rounded and pinched in at the body, and outer primaries appear noticeably longer than the inner primaries. Underside of flight feathers uniformly dark (these have a pale cast and dark tips in Indian). The undertail-coverts appear dark (pale in Indian) and in flight the feet reach the tip of tail (falling short of tail-tip in Indian). Adult has dark bill and cere with pale culmen, lacks any down on head and neck, has dirty white ruff that is rather small and ragged, and dark claws (yellowish in Indian). Juvenile has mainly dark bill, some white down on head and neck, and pale streaking on underparts. **HH** Habits like White-rumped's. Cities, towns and villages. Globally threatened.

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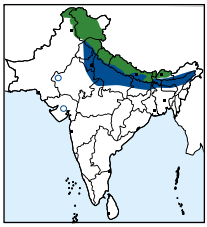
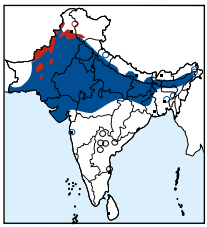


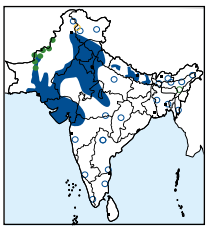
Himalayan Vulture *Gyps himalayensis* 115–125 cm

Resident in Himalayas; winters south to N India plains **ID** Larger than Griffon Vulture, with broader body and slightly longer tail. Wing-coverts and body pale buffish in adult, contrasting strongly with dark flight feathers and tail, and ruff is buffish. Underparts lack pronounced streaking. Legs and feet pinkish with dark claws, and has yellowish bill and pale blue cere and facial skin (blackish in Griffon). Juvenile has brown feathered ruff, with bill and cere initially black, dark brown body and upperwing-coverts boldly and prominently streaked with buff (wing-coverts almost concolorous with flight feathers), and back and rump also dark brown. Streaked upperparts and underparts and pronounced white banding across underwing-coverts are best distinctions of juvenile from Cinereous Vulture; very similar in plumage to juvenile White-rumped, but much larger and more heavily built, with broader wings and longer tail, underparts more heavily streaked, and streaking on mantle and scapulars. **Voice** Utters a variety of grunts and hisses. **HH** Roosts gregariously on crags, and when air currents are suitable takes to the air and soars over mountains at great heights and often for long distances. Aggressive when feeding, and dominates over all other vultures except Cinereous. Breeds in mountains, especially along routes well-used by pack animals; winters down to the plains. **AN** Himalayan Griffon.



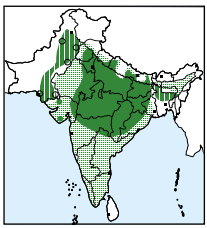
Griffon Vulture *Gyps fulvus* 95–105 cm

Present status uncertain. **ID** Larger than Indian, with stouter bill. Key features of adult are yellowish bill with blackish cere, whitish head and neck, fluffy white ruff, rufescent-buff upperparts, rufous-brown underparts and thighs with prominent pale streaking, and dark grey legs and feet. Rufous-brown underwing-coverts usually show prominent whitish banding, especially across medians (see accounts for Indian and Himalayan for comparison). Immature is richer rufous-brown on upperparts and upperwing-coverts (with prominent pale streaking) than adult; has rufous-brown feathered neck-ruff, more whitish down covering grey head and neck, blackish bill, and dark iris (pale yellowish-brown in adult). **Voice** Normally rather silent but can emit a variety of grunting, whistling, hissing and sobbing sounds. Small numbers gather at a carcass, often with other vultures. **HH** Regularly makes long journeys in search of carcasses. Semi-desert, dry open plains and hills. **AN** Eurasian Griffon.



Cinereous Vulture *Aegypius monachus* 100–110 cm

Breeds in Pakistan; winters mainly in Pakistan and Himalayas. **ID** Very large vulture with broad, parallel-edged wings. Soars with wings flat (*Gyps* vultures soar with wings held in shallow V). At a distance appears typically uniformly dark, except for pale areas on head and bill. Adult blackish-brown with paler brown ruff; may show paler band across greater underwing-coverts, but underwing darker and more uniform than on *Gyps* species. Juvenile is blacker in colour and more uniform than adult. **HH** Normally solitary by day. Usually roosts communally on the ground, often on an open escarpment, close to a steep slope in readiness for suitable thermals. Dominates all other vultures at the carcass. Breeds in mountains; forages in wide range of habitats, including bare mountains, semi-desert, along river courses and savanna grasslands. **AN** Eurasian Black Vulture.



Red-headed Vulture *Sarcogyps calvus* 85 cm

Resident. Mainly Nepal and India. **ID** Comparatively slim and pointed wings. Adult mainly black with bare reddish head and cere, white patches at base of neck and upper thighs, and reddish legs and feet; in flight, greyish-white bases to secondaries show as broad panel (particularly across underwing). Juvenile is browner with white down on head; pinkish coloration to head and feet, white patch on upper thighs, and whitish undertail-coverts are best features. **Voice** Mostly silent, but squeaks, hisses and grunts like other vultures. **HH** Usually keeps singly or in pairs. Frequently feeds on carcasses of small animals which are overlooked by other large vultures; also feeds timidly with other vultures at carcasses of larger animals. Open country near habitation, and well-wooded hills. Globally threatened.

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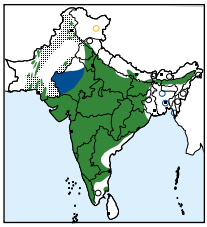
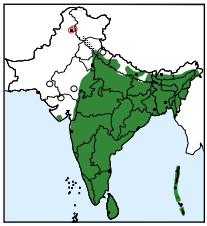


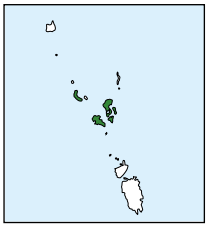
Short-toed Snake Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* 62–67 cm

Resident. Pakistan, S Nepal and India. **ID** Long and broad wings, pinched in at base, and rather long tail. Head broad and rounded. Soars with wings flat or slightly raised; frequently hovers. When perched, appears big-headed, with wing-tips reaching tail-end, and shows long unfeathered tarsus. Plumage variable, often with dark head and breast, barred underbody, dark trailing edge to underwing, and broad subterminal tail-band; can be very pale on head, underbody and underwing. On upperside, in all plumages, pale brown inner wing-coverts contrast with dark greater coverts and flight feathers. Juvenile similar in plumage to adult. **HH** Open country and scrub-covered hills.



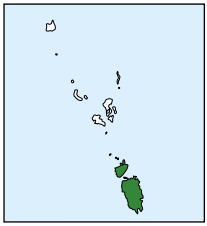
Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* 56–74 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in most of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Broad, rounded wings. Soars with wings held forward and in pronounced V. At rest has black-and-white crest, yellow cere and lores, and unfeathered yellow legs. Adult has broad white bands across wings and tail and white spotting and barring on brown underparts. Juvenile has blackish ear-coverts, whitish head and underparts, narrower barring on tail (than adult), and largely white underwing with fine dark barring and dark trailing edge. Birds of peninsular India *S. c. melanotis*, and especially Sri Lanka *S. c. spilogaster*, are smaller than the northern nominate; adults have unbarred breast, and a pale brown band at base of tail. *S. c. davisoni*, of Andamans, and undescribed subspecies from South Nicobar islands (sympatric with *S. klossi*), have paler underparts and underwing-coverts, narrower banding on underside of wings and two white bands on underside of tail. **Voice** Variety of loud, ringing, musical whistling or screaming in flight. **HH** Forest and well-wooded country.



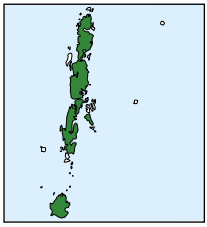
Central Nicobar Serpent Eagle *Spilornis minimus* 41–48 cm

Resident. Central Nicobars. **ID** Only *Spilornis* known from Central Nicobars. Smaller than *davisoni* subspecies of Crested, but is otherwise rather similar in appearance. Underparts are paler with larger spots on lower underparts. Underwing-coverts are pale and almost unmarked. Underside of tail has two dark and two pale bands, with pale bands more prominent than *S. c. davisoni*. Juvenile *minimus* has buff tips to crest, whitish underparts, and three narrow dark tail bands. **Voice** Very similar to Crested's. **HH** Forest near streams.



Great Nicobar Serpent Eagle *Spilornis klossi* 38–42 cm

Great Nicobar, and reported from Little Nicobar and Menchal. **ID** Very small. Has cinnamon scaling to black crown and crest, grey sides of head with dark grey malar, whitish throat with black mesial stripe, and cinnamon collar and underparts (latter without barring or spotting); undertail is more narrowly banded with black than on other serpent eagles. Very small size, dark throat stripe, and unmarked cinnamon underparts (lacking any spotting on lower underparts) are best distinctions from undescribed subspecies of Crested which is also present on Great Nicobar. Juvenile has buff tips to crown and upperparts; underwing and undertail lack broad black banding. **Voice** Undescribed. **HH** Dense forest near streams. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Central Nicobar Serpent Eagle *S. minimus*.



Andaman Serpent Eagle *Spilornis elgini* 51–59 cm

Resident. Andaman Is. **ID** Slightly smaller and much darker than *davisoni* subspecies of Crested which occurs on Andamans. Adult has dark brown underparts and underwing-coverts with white spotting, narrow greyish-white barring on underside of remiges, and two narrow greyish-white bands across undertail. Juvenile paler brown, with white fringes to feathers of crown and nape, dark ear-covert patch, and more prominent banding on underside of wings and tail. **Voice** Clear whistles. **HH** Open forest and forest clearings.

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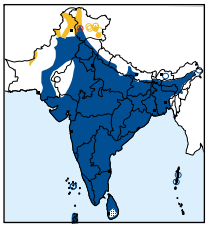
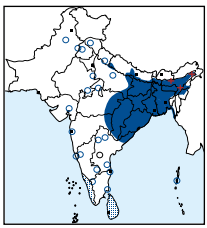


Eurasian Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* 42–54 cm

Widespread winter visitor; unrecorded in parts of W Pakistan and NE India. **ID** A broad-winged, stout-bodied harrier; in common with other harriers, glides and soars with wings held in noticeable V, which helps to separate it from Booted Eagle and Black Kite. Adult male is distinguished from other male harriers by combination of chestnut-brown mantle and upperwing-coverts contrasting with grey secondaries/inner primaries and black outer primaries, pale head (variably streaked with brown) and pale leading edge to wing, and brown streaking on breast and belly, becoming uniformly brown on lower belly and vent. Shows variable amount of brown on underwing-coverts, with rest of underwing being white except for black ends to primaries. All-dark melanistic morphs occur which are sooty-grey above and blackish below, with grey patch at base of underside of primaries. Adult female is mainly dark brown except for creamy crown, nape and throat, creamy leading edge to wing, and paler patch at base of underside of primaries. Melanistic female (and juvenile) much as melanistic male, but with grey or whitish colour extending across underside of all flight feathers (not just on primaries). Juvenile is similar to female, but head and wing-coverts may be entirely dark. **HH** Systematically quarters the ground a few metres above it, gliding slowly on raised wings and occasionally flapping rather heavily several times; on locating prey, drops quickly with claws held out to catch it. Reedbeds, marshes, lakes, flooded fields; also coastal lagoons in Bangladesh. **AN** Western Marsh Harrier if eastern form is split.

Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus* (*aeruginosus*) *spilonotus* 43–54 cm

Winter visitor, mainly to NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Differs markedly from Eurasian Marsh, and in some plumages could be confused with Pied and Hen Harriers. Compared with Pied Harrier, it is larger, has broader wings and tail, and is stouter-bodied with more prominent head. Adult male has black streaking on whitish head and breast, and has black mantle and median coverts with feathers boldly edged with white. Head and mantle can appear mainly black on some, and is then not unlike adult male Pied Harrier, but is never as clean-cut in appearance as that species (i.e. breast is streaked, mantle and back show some white fringes, and lacks clear-cut black bar across median coverts and broad white leading edge to wing). Young males can appear similar to female Pied; small size, finer build and prominent barring across tail are useful features for Pied. Adult female has white uppertail-coverts, greyish flight feathers and tail with dark barring, heavily streaked head and breast, and broad diffuse rufous streaking on underparts. Secondaries on underwing appear grey and diffusely barred, with paler patch at base of primaries. Structural differences and heavily marked underbody and underwing are best features for separation from female Pied. White 'rump' band recalls female Hen or Pallid Harriers, but patterning and coloration of upperwing, underwing and underparts is otherwise rather different. Juvenile is rather dark, with cream breast-band and pale patch at base of underside of primaries; head usually mainly cream, with variable dark streaking, and some with pronounced cream streaking on mantle. Can show white band across uppertail-coverts. **HH** Habits similar to those of Eurasian Marsh. Marshes, reedbeds, flooded fields, cultivation and open country in vicinity of water.



Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos* 41–46.5 cm

Breeds in Assam; winter visitor mainly to NE subcontinent, Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. **ID** Usually looks broader in wing and body than Pallid and Montagu's Harriers, and slightly heavier in flight, although male can appear dainty and buoyant. Most likely to be confused with Eastern Marsh Harrier (above); see that species for details. Adult male is distinctive, with black head and breast contrasting with white underbody, black upperbody, median coverts and primaries contrasting with grey of rest of wing, and white leading edge to wing. Yellow cere and iris are especially striking against black of head. Adult female superficially resembles female Pallid and Montagu's, but has paler underwing with narrow dark barring on flight feathers and sparse streaking on underwing-coverts, greyer primaries and secondaries with more pronounced dark banding, and greyer tail with narrower dark barring. Juvenile has dark brown head and upperparts, with white supercilium and patch below eye (but lacking pronounced white collar of juvenile Pallid), white uppertail-coverts, rufous-brown underbody and underwing-coverts, and pale underside to primaries (with dark fingers) contrasting with dark underside of secondaries. **HH** Flight and hunting behaviour like Eurasian Marsh, but more graceful on the wing. Open grassland and cultivation in plains and hills.

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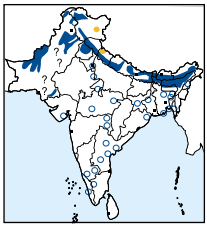
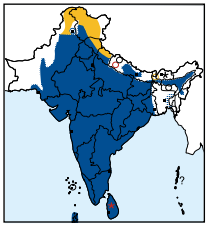


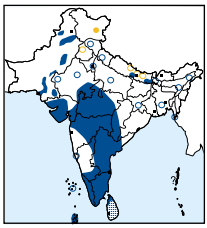
Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* 44–52 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly Pakistan, Himalayas and N India. **ID** Compared with Pallid and Montagu's, has slower and more laboured flight and is stockier, with broader wings and more rounded hand, normally with five (rather than four) visible primaries at tip. Adult male told from male Pallid and Montagu's by combination of dark grey upperparts with extensive black at tips of wings, prominent white uppertail-covert patch, absence of black banding across secondaries (although has variable dark trailing edge to underwing), and dark grey head and breast contrasting with white belly. Adult female has boldly streaked underparts. White band across uppertail-coverts is broader than on Pallid and Montagu's. Has narrow pale neck-collar, but otherwise head pattern is typically rather plain compared with those species, usually lacking dark ear-covert patch. Juvenile recalls female but has rufous-brown underparts and underwing-coverts, although these are noticeably streaked with dark brown (unlike on juvenile Pallid and Montagu's). **HH** Flight and hunting behaviour like those of Eurasian Marsh, but more graceful on the wing. Roosts gregariously on the ground. Open country, grassland and cultivation in plains and foothills.



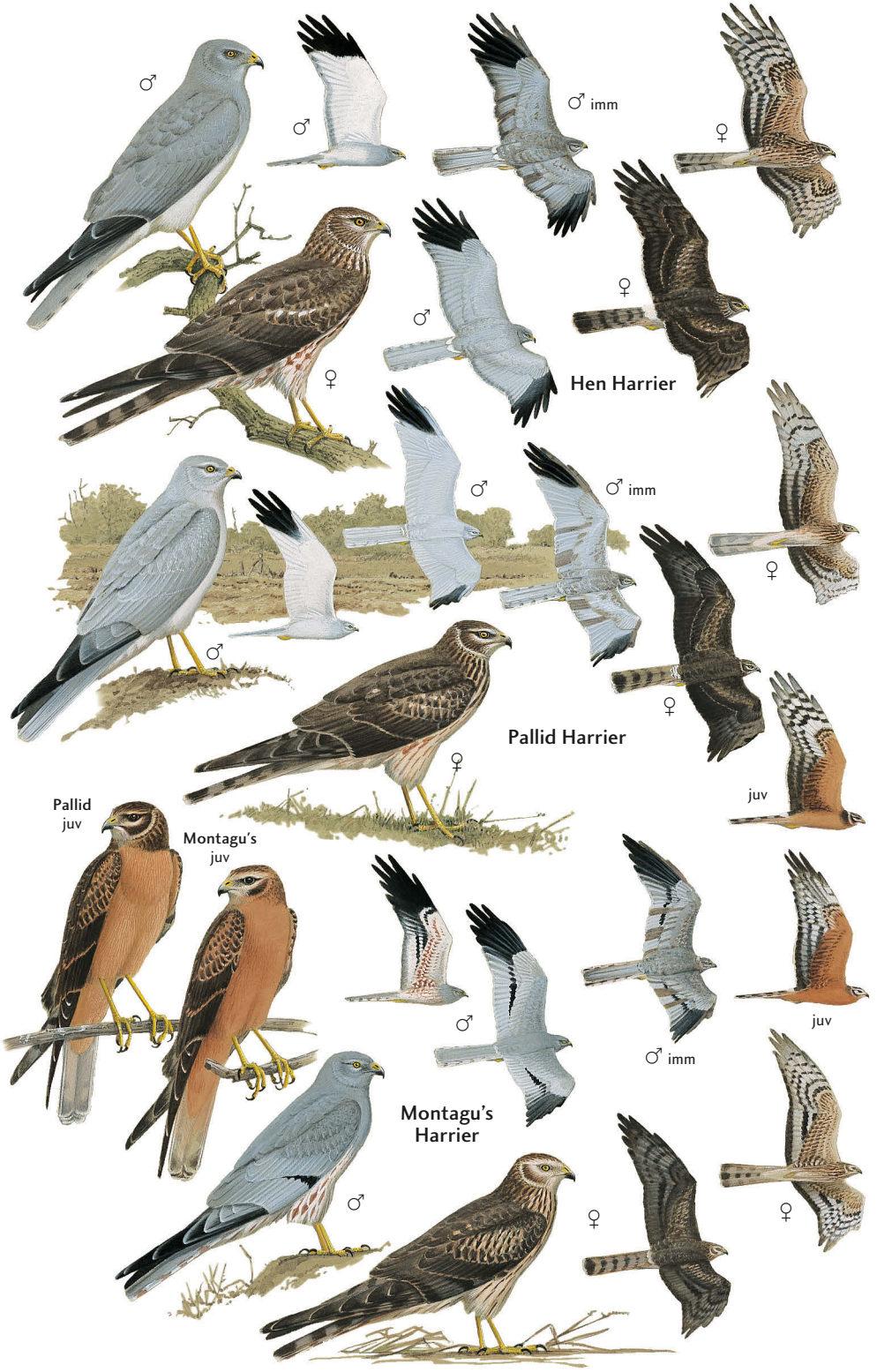
Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* 40–48 cm

Widespread winter visitor; unrecorded in parts of northeast and W Pakistan. **ID** Slim-winged and fine-bodied, with buoyant flight. Folded wings fall short of tail-tip, and legs longer than on Montagu's. Male has pale grey upperparts, dark wedge on primaries, very pale grey head and underbody, and lacks black secondary bars. Immature male may show rusty breast-band and juvenile facial markings. Female has distinctive underwing pattern: pale primaries, irregularly barred and lacking dark trailing edge, contrast with darker secondaries which have pale bands narrower than on female Montagu's and tapering towards body (although first-summer Montagu's more similar in this respect), and lacks prominent barring on axillaries. Typically, female has stronger head pattern than Montagu's, with more pronounced pale collar, dark ear-coverts and dark eye-stripe, and upperside of flight feathers darker and lacking banding; told from female Hen by narrower wings with more pointed hand, stronger head pattern, and patterning of underside of primaries. Juvenile has unstreaked orange-buff underparts and underwing-coverts; on underwing, primaries evenly barred (lacking pronounced dark fingers), without dark trailing edge, and usually with pale crescent at base; head pattern more pronounced than Montagu's, with narrower white supercilium, more extensive dark ear-covert patch, and broader pale collar contrasting strongly with dark neck sides. **HH** Habits like those of Hen Harrier, but lighter on the wing. Open country in plains and foothills: semi-desert, grassy slopes, cultivation, scrub-covered plains, and marshes.



Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* 43–47 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Folded wings reach tail-tip, and legs shorter than on Pallid. Male has black band across secondaries, extensive black on underside of primaries, and rufous streaking on belly and underwing-coverts. Female differs from female Pallid in distinctly and evenly barred underside to primaries with dark trailing edge, broader and more pronounced pale bands across secondaries, barring on axillaries, less pronounced head pattern, and distinct dark banding on upperside of remiges. Juvenile has unstreaked rufous underparts and underwing-coverts, and darker secondaries than female; differs from juvenile Pallid in having broad dark fingers and dark trailing edge to hand on underwing, and paler face with smaller dark ear-covert patch and less distinct collar. Rarely, all-dark melanistic morphs occur, which are all blackish except for sooty-grey secondaries. Possibly confusable with all-dark juvenile Western Marsh, but are much more graceful and lightly built. **HH** Habits like those of Hen Harrier, but lighter on the wing. Open country in plains and foothills, including cultivation, scrub-covered plains, grassland and marshes.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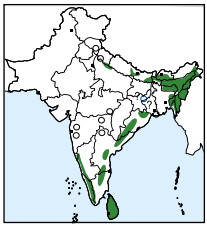
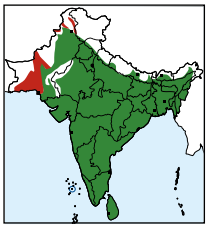


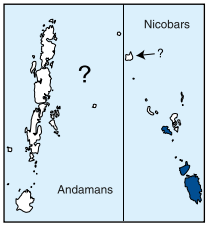
Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* 30–46 cm

Resident. Mainly Himalayas, NE and SW India, and Sri Lanka. **ID** Larger size and crest are best distinctions from Besra. Short and broad wings, pinched in at base. Wing-tips barely extend beyond tail-base at rest. Yellow (rather than grey) cere and absence of white tips to shorter crest help separate from Jerdon's Baza. Compared with other *Accipiter* species, has short stoutish legs and feet. Soars low above the canopy in fluttering display flight, with white undertail-coverts prominent. Otherwise, stiff wing-beats are interspersed with gliding on level wings. Narrow white line along uppertail-coverts diagnostic if present. Male has dark grey crown and paler grey ear-coverts, well-defined black submoustachial and gular stripes, and rufous-brown streaking on breast and barring on belly and flanks. Female larger with browner crown and ear-coverts, and browner streaking and barring on underparts. Juvenile has paler brown upperparts with pale fringes, rufous or buffish fringes to crown and nape feathers, streaked ear-coverts, and buff or rufous wash to underparts, which are mainly streaked brown (with barring restricted to lower flanks and thighs). Birds of SW India, and especially *A. t. layardi* of Sri Lanka, are much smaller than *A. t. indicus* of the N subcontinent. *A. t. layardi* has darker brown and sparser barring on underparts; juvenile has unmarked rufous-buff underparts and underwing-coverts (except for spotting on flanks and undertail-coverts). **Voice** Calls include passerine-like whistles, a shrill scream, *he he, hehehehe* and shrill whistle *chewee…chewee…* **HH** Dense deciduous and evergreen broadleaved tropical and subtropical forest; also wooded gardens in Sri Lanka.



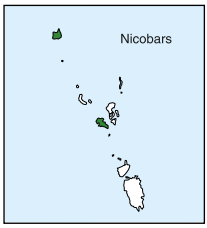
Shikra *Accipiter badius* 30–36 cm

Widespread resident, except in parts of northwest. **ID** Adult paler than Besra and Eurasian Sparrowhawk. Underwing pale, with fine barring on remiges, and slightly darker wing-tips. Head cuckoo-like compared with other *Accipiter*. Male has pale blue-grey upperparts with contrasting dark grey primaries, indistinct grey gular stripe, fine brownish-orange barring on underparts, unbarred white thighs, and unbarred or lightly barred central tail feathers. Female upperparts more brownish-grey. Juvenile has pale brown upperparts, more prominent gular stripe, and streaked underparts; from juvenile Besra by paler upperparts and narrower tail barring, and from Eurasian Sparrowhawk by streaked underparts. The nominate from S India and Sri Lanka is smaller and darker grey above than other races in the region, with darker tail bands, and has underparts more closely barred with darker rufous. Birds in NE India also darker and more heavily marked. **Voice** Normal call is a loud, harsh *titu-titu* similar to call of Black Drongo, also long drawn out screams, *iheeya, iheeya* and a constantly repeated *ti-tui* in display. **HH** Open wooded country.



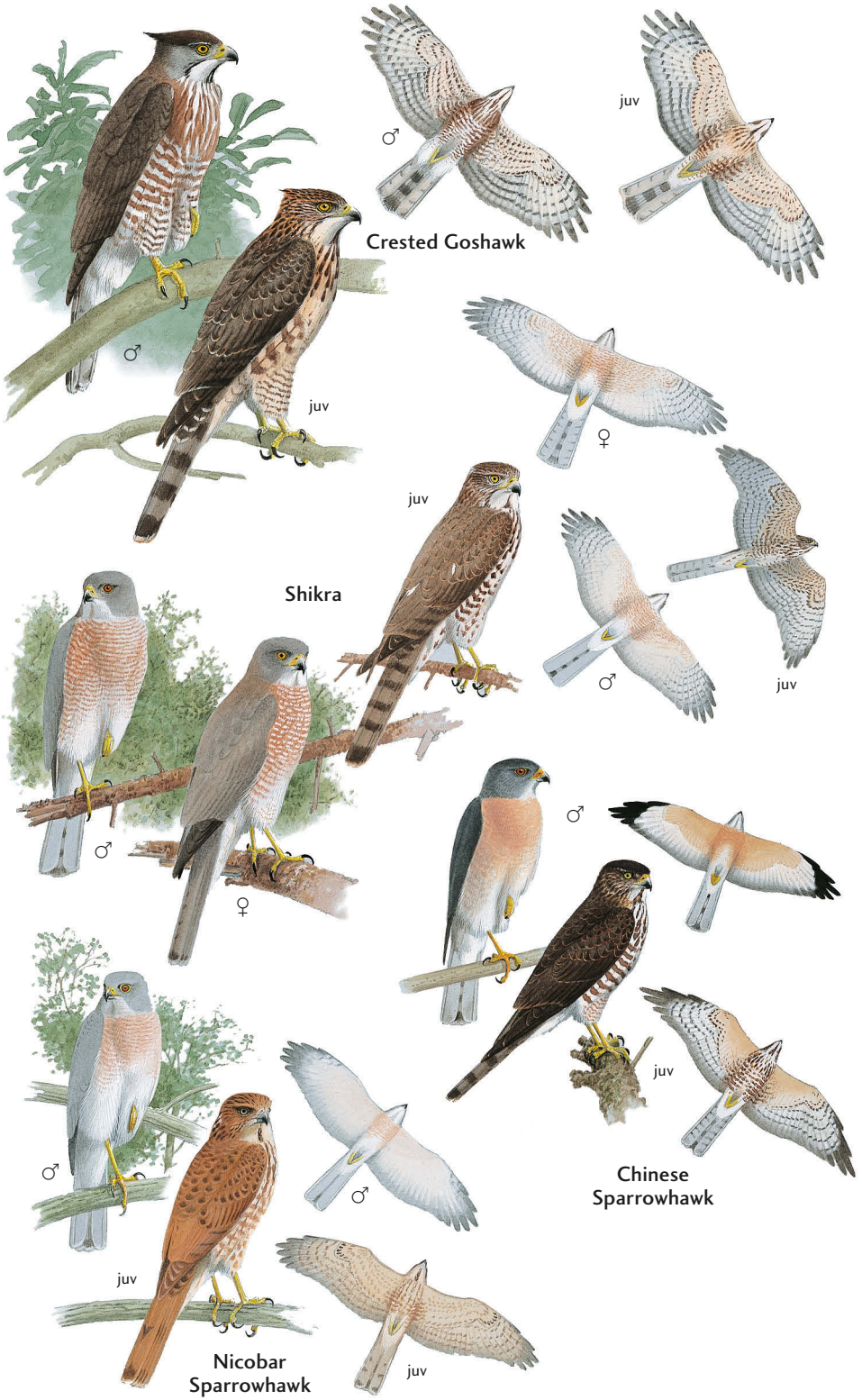
Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* 25–30 cm

Winter visitor. Nicobars. **ID** Comparatively narrow and pointed wings, with long primary projection at rest (extending nearly halfway down tail). Adult has blue-grey head and upperparts, indistinct grey gular stripe, and rufous-orange breast; distinctive underwing pattern, with unbarred remiges and coverts, blackish wing-tips and dark grey trailing edge. Sexes similar, and there is little difference in size, although breast coloration of male is paler and can be whitish or pale greyish-purple, while breast of female can show bars of darker grey and upperparts are a shade browner; iris is dark crimson in male and yellow in female. Sub-adults show some dark barring on underside of flight feathers. Juvenile has dark brown upperparts, pronounced dark gular stripe, and rufous-brown spotting and barring on underparts; compared with juvenile Japanese Sparrowhawk, crown is a darker slate-grey than mantle, lacks distinct supercilium, and has distinctive underwing pattern (dark grey wing-tips and trailing edge, largely unmarked greyish-brown to pale rufous coverts). **HH** Forest and wooded country.



Nicobar Sparrowhawk *Accipiter butleri* 30–34 cm

Resident. Nicobars. **ID** Very short primary projection. Male has pale blue-grey upperparts, mainly whitish underparts and underwing-coverts, indistinct gular stripe, and unbarred tail with narrow diffuse terminal band. Female slightly browner on upperparts, with marginally stronger barring on breast. Juvenile has rufous upperparts with dark brown feather centres, rufous-buff underparts with browner streaking, and dark banding on rufous-cinnamon secondaries and tail. **Voice** Gives a shrill double note, *kee-wick* similar to that of Shikra. **HH** Tops of tall trees. Globally threatened.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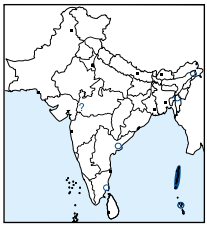
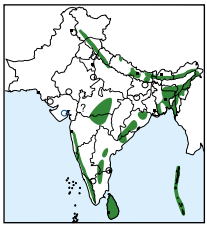


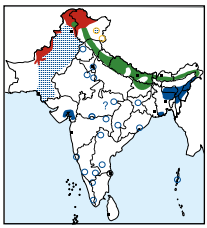
Japanese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter gularis* 25–31.5 cm

Winter visitor. Andaman Is. **ID** Very small. Long primary projection (extending nearly halfway down tail). In flight, wings are a shade narrower and more pointed than on Eurasian Sparrowhawk and Besra. Underside of flight feathers and underwing-coverts are distinctly barred. In all plumages, pale bars on tail generally broader than dark bars (reverse on Besra). Underpart patterning of adults rather different from Besra; juveniles more similar. Male has dark bluish-grey upperparts, pale rufous to pale grey underparts (some with fine grey barring), and dark crimson iris. Has very indistinct gular stripe (often not visible in field). Female has browner upperparts, whitish underparts with distinct greyish-brown barring, indistinct gular stripe, and yellow iris. Juvenile has dark greyish-brown upperparts with narrow rufous fringes, white supercilium, and brown to rufous streaking on breast, heart-shaped spots on lower breast and belly and barring on flanks and thighs. **HH** Habits are like Besra's. Secondary forest; also cultivation and human habitation.



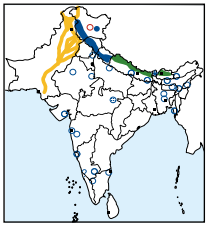
Besra *Accipiter virgatus* 29–36 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE and SW India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Small, with short primary projection (less than one-third down tail). Upperparts are darker in coloration and underwing is strongly barred compared with Shikra, while prominent gular stripe and streaked breast should separate it from Eurasian. In all plumages resembles Crested Goshawk, but is considerably smaller, lacks crest, and has longer and finer legs. Adult male told from Shikra by dark slate-grey upperparts lacking strong contrast with primaries, broad blackish gular stripe, bold rufous streaking on breast and barring on belly, flanks and thighs, and pronounced and broad dark tail barring. Adult female is similar, but upperparts are browner, with blackish crown and nape, and yellow iris (red in male). Juvenile has brown upperparts with rufous fringes, prominent gular stripe, and streaked/spotted breast and belly and barred flanks. Told from immature Shikra by darker, richer brown upperparts, broader gular stripe, and broader tail barring. From Eurasian Sparrowhawk by streaked underparts. Male *A. v. abdulalii*, from the Andaman Is, is quite different from those from the rest of the subcontinent: the breast is greyish-tawny, the belly dull tawny and the thighs light grey, the entire underparts lacking streaking or barring. Female *abdulalii* is as in other subspecies. **Voice** Makes a loud squealing *ki-weeer and* a rapidly repeated *tchew-tchew-tchew* during displays. **HH** Expert at dodging and twisting at speed through dense forest undergrowth. Breeds in dense broadleaved forest; also open wooded country in winter.



Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* 31–36 cm

Resident and winter visitor. **ID** Breeds in Baluchistan and Himalayas; winters in Himalayan foothills and south to S India. Upperparts of adult darker than Shikra, with prominent barring on underparts, underwing and tail. Uniform barring on underparts and absence of prominent gular stripe should separate it from Besra. Male has dark slate-grey upperparts and reddish-orange barring on underparts. Female dark brown on upperparts, with dark brown barring on underparts, and yellow iris (red in some males). Juvenile has dark brown upperparts and barred underparts. Male of the resident Himalayan *melaschistos* has darker grey upperparts, with almost black crown and mantle, and stronger rufous barring to underparts. **Voice** Gives two long notes followed by three or four very short notes *tiu-tiu-tititi*. **HH** Captures prey in a short swift dash, relying on surprise tactics, or by swift low flight between trees or patches of cover, Well-wooded country, open forest, scrub forest and groves in cultivation



Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* 50–61 cm

Winter visitor and resident? Mainly Pakistan and Himalayas. **ID** Very large, with heavy, deep-chested appearance. Wings comparatively long, with bulging secondaries. Male has grey upperparts (greyer than female Eurasian Sparrowhawk), white supercilium, and finely barred underparts. Female considerably larger with browner upperparts. Juvenile has heavy streaking on buff-coloured underparts. **Voice** Most common call is a shrill chatter and female has a disyllabic *hee-aa*. **HH** Hunting habits are similar to Eurasian Sparrowhawk's, but more powerful. Oak and high-altitude coniferous forest, sometimes hunting above the tree line in Himalayas.

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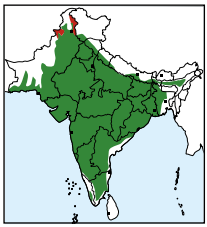
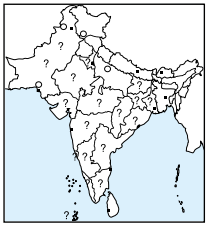


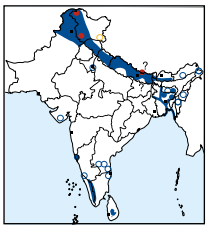
White-eyed Buzzard *Butastur teesa* 43 cm

Widespread resident; absent in parts of NW, NE and S subcontinent. **ID** Longish, rather slim wings, long tail, and buzzard-like head. Pale median-covert panel. Adult has black gular stripe, white nape patch, barred underparts, dark wing-tips, and rufous tail; iris white and cere yellow. Juvenile has buffish head and breast streaked with dark brown, with throat stripe indistinct or absent; rufous uppertail more strongly barred; iris brown. **Voice** Plaintive mewing *pit-weer, pit-weer* in breeding season. **HH** Dry open country.



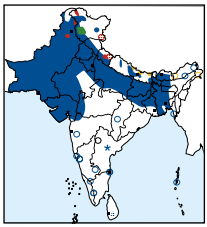
Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* 51–56 cm

Probably widespread winter visitor but status uncertain. **ID** Stocky, with broad rounded wings and moderate-length tail. Plumage very variable. Most numerous rufous morph has rufous on underparts and underwing-coverts, and narrowly-barred rufous tail. Can be very similar to typical Long-legged. Intermediate and dark morphs have browner to dark brown underparts and underwing-coverts and lack rufous colour to tail; can be identical in plumage to Long-legged and best identified by structural differences. Juvenile lacks dark trailing edge to wings of adult. **Voice** A loud, repeated mew *peee-oo*. **HH** Open-country habitats.



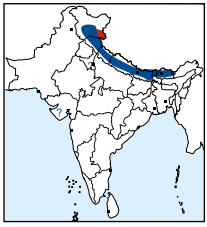
Himalayan Buzzard *Buteo* (*buteo*) *burmanicus* 51–57 cm

Resident and winter visitor to Himalayas; also winter visitor to NE India. **ID** Typically with variable streaking on breast and brown patches on sides of belly; tail is grey-brown to greyish-white with diffuse dark barring (with tail appearing pale and unbarred from below); shows prominent dark carpal patches on underwing; can be similar in appearance to larger Upland. Himalayan breeding birds are larger than migrant *burmanicus* and very rufous. They have been ascribed to '*B. b. refectus*' but that name appears to refer to wintering birds from further north, i.e. *burmanicus*. The Himalayan birds are probably an undescribed race (or species) more closely related to *B. b. vulpinus*. If this is confirmed then *burmanicus* would more appropriately be referred to as 'Chinese Buzzard'. **Voice** Calls similar to Common, but higher-pitched and thinner in tone. **HH** Mountains and cultivated slopes.



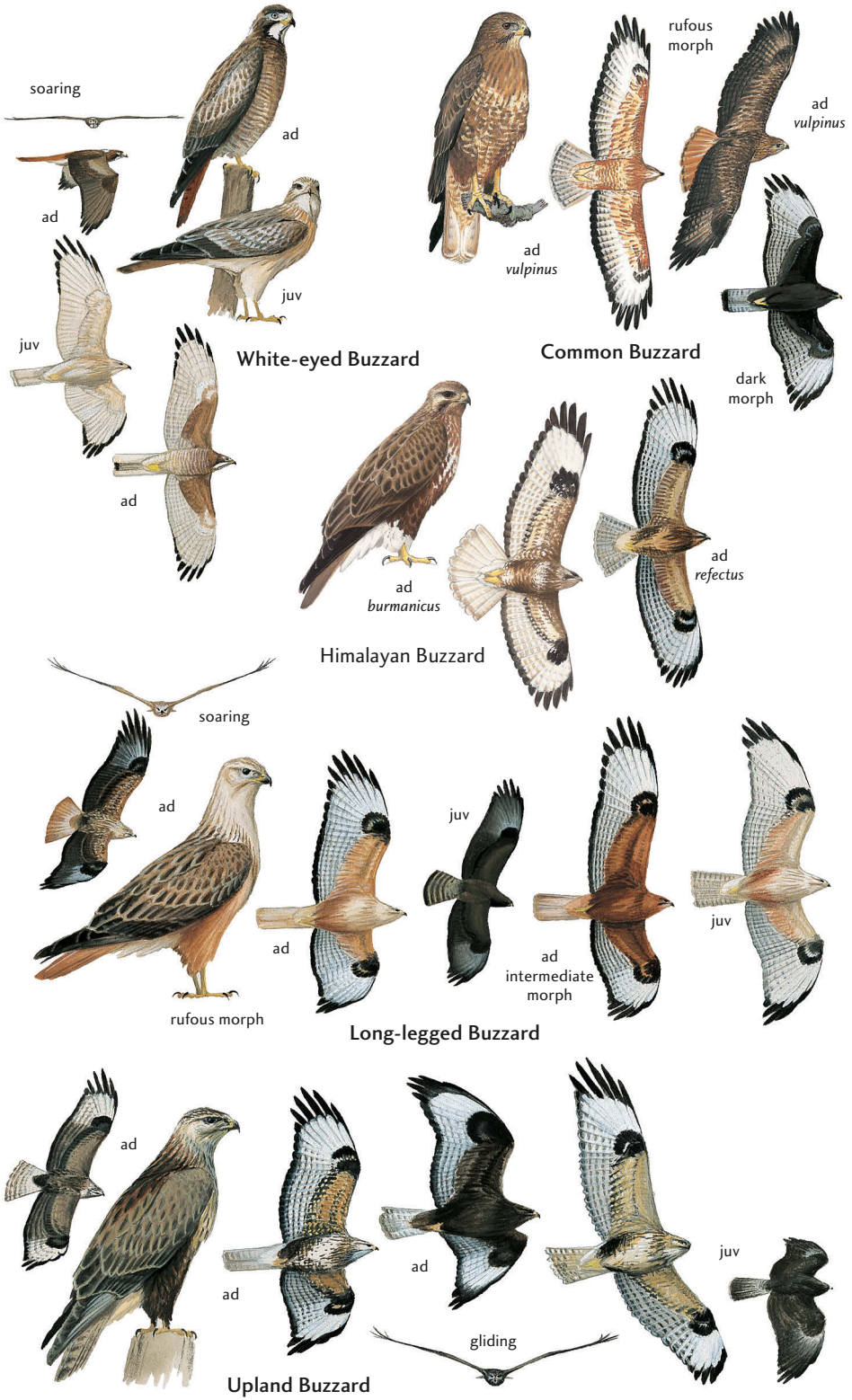
Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus* 61 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; winters in Pakistan, Himalayas, Assam and Bangladesh. **ID** Larger and longer-necked than Common Buzzard, with longer wings and tail; soars with wings in deeper V. Most differ from Common Buzzard in having combination of paler head and upper breast, rufous-brown lower breast and belly, more uniform rufous underwing-coverts, more extensive black carpal patches, larger pale primary patch on upperwing, and unbarred pale orange uppertail. Intermediate and dark morphs much as some plumages of Common Buzzard. Juvenile generally less rufous, with narrower and more diffuse trailing edge to wing, and lightly barred tail which on many is pale greyish-brown; has more prominent dark carpal patches and belly than Common Buzzard. **HH** Breeds in forested hills and mountains; winters in open-country habitats.



Upland Buzzard *Buteo hemilasius* 71 cm

Breeds in Ladakh and possibly in Nepal; winters in Himalayas. **ID** Larger, longer-winged and longer-tailed than Himalayan Buzzard; soars with wings in deeper V. Tarsus at least three-quarters feathered (half feathered or less on other *Buteo* species). 'Classic' pale morph has a combination of large white primary patch on upperwing, greyish-white tail (with fine bars towards tip), whitish head and underparts with dark brown streaking, brown thighs, and extensive black carpal patches (some Himalayan Buzzards very similar); never has rufous tail or rufous thighs as in many Long-legged Buzzard. 'Blackish morph' indistinguishable on plumage. Juvenile has less distinct trailing edge to wing than adult, and more prominently barred tail. **Voice** Calls similar to Common Buzzard, but more nasal and prolonged. **HH** Open country in hills and mountains.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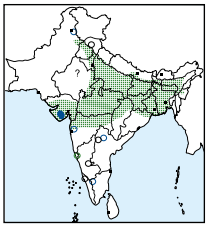
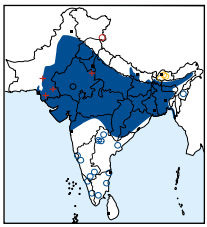


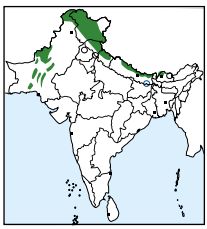
Indian Spotted Eagle *Aquila hastata* 59–67 cm

Resident. N subcontinent; largely unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** As Greater Spotted, Indian Spotted is a stocky, medium-sized eagle with rather short and broad wings, buzzard-like head with comparatively fine bill (particularly so in Indian Spotted), long and closely feathered tarsi, and a rather short tail. The wings are angled down at carpals when gliding and soaring. Adult is similar in overall appearance to Greater Spotted Eagle although warmer brown in coloration. Has a wider gape than Greater Spotted, with thick 'lips' (gape flanges) visible at a distance, with gape-line extending to back of or behind eye (reaching level to centre of eye in Spotted). Lacks spiky nape feathers of Greater Spotted, and has shorter thigh feathering. Underwing-coverts are paler or same colour as flight feathers (darker in Greater Spotted). Juvenile is more distinct from juvenile Greater Spotted. Spotting on upperwing coverts is less prominent, tertials are pale brown with diffuse white tips (dark with bold white tips in Greater Spotted), uppertail-coverts are pale brown with white barring (white in Greater Spotted), and underparts are paler light yellowish brown with dark streaking. In some plumages can resemble Steppe Eagle – differences mentioned below for Greater Spotted are likely to be helpful for separation (although gape-line is also long in Steppe). **Voice** Gives a very high-pitched cackling laugh. **HH** Like other *Aquila* eagles, an aggressive and powerful predator which can soar well, often at considerable heights. Hunts by quartering with slow glides over areas within and near forest, usually flying above treetop level; seizes most prey on the ground. Wooded areas interspersed with cultivation in lowlands. Globally threatened. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Lesser Spotted Eagle *A. pomarina*.



Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga* 65–72 cm

Breeds in NW subcontinent; winters mainly in N subcontinent. **ID** Medium-sized eagle with rather short and broad wings, stocky head, and short tail. Wings distinctly angled down at carpals when gliding, almost flat when soaring. See account for Indian Spotted for differences from that species. Compared with Steppe Eagle, has less protruding head in flight, with shorter wings and less deep-fingered wing-tips; at rest, trousers less baggy, and bill smaller with rounded (rather than elongated) nostril and shorter gape; lacks adult Steppe's barring on underside of flight and tail feathers, and dark trailing edge to wing, and has a dark chin. Pale variant '*fulvescens*' distinguished from juvenile Imperial Eagle by structural differences, lack of prominent pale wedge on inner primaries on underwing, and unstreaked underparts. Juvenile has bold whitish tips to dark brown coverts. **Voice** Utters a barking *kluck-kluck* or *tyuck-tyuck*. Often seen perched on a treetop, bush or bank near water. **HH** Hunts on the wing or on ground, generally taking slow-moving prey, especially frogs. Also takes faster-moving waterbirds by swooping low and scattering flock, isolating an individual. Large lakes, canals, marshes; also mangroves. Globally threatened.



Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* 75–88 cm

Resident. Baluchistan and Himalayas. **ID** Large, with long and broad wings (with pronounced curve to trailing edge), long tail, and distinctly protruding head and neck. Wings clearly pressed forward and raised (with upturned fingers) in pronounced V when soaring. Adult has pale panel across upperwing-coverts, gold crown and nape, and two-toned tail. Juvenile has white base to tail and white patch at base of flight feathers. **HH** Soars for hours over mountain ridges. Usually hunts by quartering a slope, flying low and then striking with talons in a swift dash; occasionally pounces from a perch. Feeds mainly on gamebirds and mammals. High rugged mountains, usually well above the tree line.

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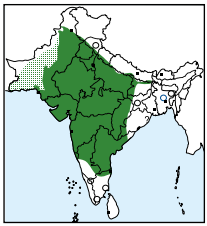
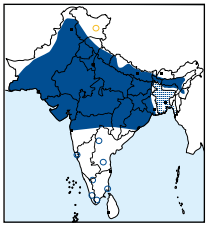


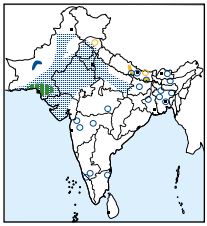
Tawny Eagle *Aquila rapax* 63–71 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in the northeast. **ID** Compared with Steppe Eagle, hand of wing does not appear so long and broad, tail slightly shorter, and looks smaller and weaker at rest; gape-line ends level with centre of eye (extends to rear of eye in Steppe), and adult has yellowish iris (usually brown in Steppe). Differs from Greater and Indian Spotted in more protruding head and neck in flight, baggy trousers, yellow iris, and oval nostril. Adult extremely variable, from dark brown through rufous to pale cream, and unstreaked or streaked with rufous or dark brown. Dark morph very similar to adult Steppe (which shows much less variation); distinctions include less pronounced barring and dark trailing edge on underwing, dark nape, and dark throat. Rufous to pale cream Tawny uniformly pale from uppertail-coverts to back, with undertail-coverts same colour as belly (contrast often apparent on similar species). Pale adults also lack prominent whitish trailing edge to wing, tip to tail and greater-covert bar (present on immatures of similar species). Characteristic, if present, is distinct pale inner-primary wedge on underwing. Juvenile also variable, with narrow white tips to unbarred secondaries; otherwise as similar-plumaged adult. Immature/sub-adult birds can show dark throat and breast contrasting with pale belly, and dark banding across underwing-coverts; whole head and breast may be dark. **Voice** Utters a variety of loud, raucous cackles; a distinctive guttural *kra* while in pursuit, and a harsh grating *kekeke* in display flight. **HH** Spends much time perched on treetops in cultivation or near village rubbish dumps or slaughterhouses. Feeds on carrion and refuse; also on small mammals, birds and reptiles, mainly stolen from smaller birds of prey, but also captures small mammals by pouncing on them from a small bush. Roosts communally in groves, on the ground on or power pylons. Inhabits desert, semi-desert and cultivation in the lowlands.



Steppe Eagle *Aquila nipalensis* 76–80 cm

Widespread winter visitor to N and C subcontinent. **ID** Broader and longer wings than Greater and Indian Spotted, with more pronounced and spread fingers, and more protruding head and neck; wings flatter when soaring, and less distinctly angled down at carpals when gliding. When perched, clearly bigger and heavier, with heavier bill and baggy trousers. Adult separated from adult spotted eagles by underwing pattern (dark trailing edge, distinct barring on remiges, indistinct/non-existent pale crescents in carpal region), pale rufous nape patch and pale chin. Juvenile has broad white bar across underwing, double white bar on upperwing, and white crescent across uppertail-coverts; prominence of bars on upperwing and underwing much reduced on older immatures (when more similar in appearance to Indian Spotted; see that species). **HH** Habits similar to Tawny's. Frequents wooded hills, open country and large lakes.



Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* 72–83 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly Pakistan and NW India. Large, stout-bodied eagle with long and broad wings, longish tail, and distinctly protruding head and neck. Wings flat when soaring and gliding. Adult has almost uniform upperwing, small white scapular patches, golden-buff crown and nape, and two-toned tail. Juvenile has pronounced curve to trailing edge of wing, pale wedge on inner primaries, streaked buffish body and wing-coverts, uniform pale rump and back (lacking distinct pale crescent shown by other species, except Tawny), and white tips to median and greater upperwing-coverts. **Voice** Gives a sonorous barking *owk-owk-owk*; rather silent outside breeding season. **HH** A solitary, majestic eagle. Typically spends most of the day perched on a good vantage point, such as a tree, or on the ground. In the region, mainly feeds by robbing other raptors in flight; also eats carrion and small mammals, birds and reptiles taken on the ground. Soars high overhead and can fly at great speeds. Inhabits open country in the plains, deserts and around major lakes and wetlands. Globally threatened.

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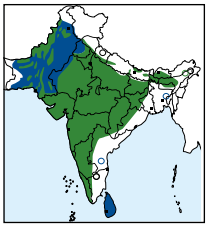
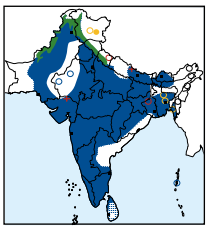


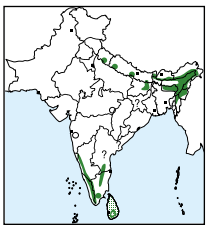
Bonelli's Eagle *Aquila fasciata* 65–72 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in most of NE and E subcontinent. **ID** Medium-sized eagle with long and broad wings, distinctly protruding head, and long square-ended tail. Soars with wings flat. Adult has pale underbody and forewing, blackish carpals and band along underwing-coverts, greyish underside to flight feathers with diffuse dark trailing edge, whitish patch on mantle, and pale greyish tail with broad dark terminal band. Juvenile has pronounced curve to trailing edge of wing. Is best told by combination of distinctive shape (especially long tail), ginger-buff to reddish-brown underbody and underwing-coverts (with variable dark band along greater coverts), and narrow greyish barring on underside of wings and tail, which both lack dark trailing edge. Also shows pale inner primaries and base to outer primaries on underwing, comparatively uniform upperwing, and pale crescent across uppertail-coverts and patch on back. Older immatures show more pronounced dark band along greater underwing-coverts and dark terminal band on wings and tail. **Voice** Usually rather silent, but in display and near nest emits mellow fluting calls, *klu-klu-klu-kluee* or *kluu-klu-klu-klu-klu*, associated with alarm. **HH** A bold predator, usually seen in flight, although soars far less than other large birds of prey. Normally hunts by perching concealed in a tree and making a quick dash; also quarters slopes or stoops when soaring. Takes most food on the ground. Inhabits well-wooded country in plains and hills; also edges of desert and around large lakes in Pakistan. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hieraaetus*.



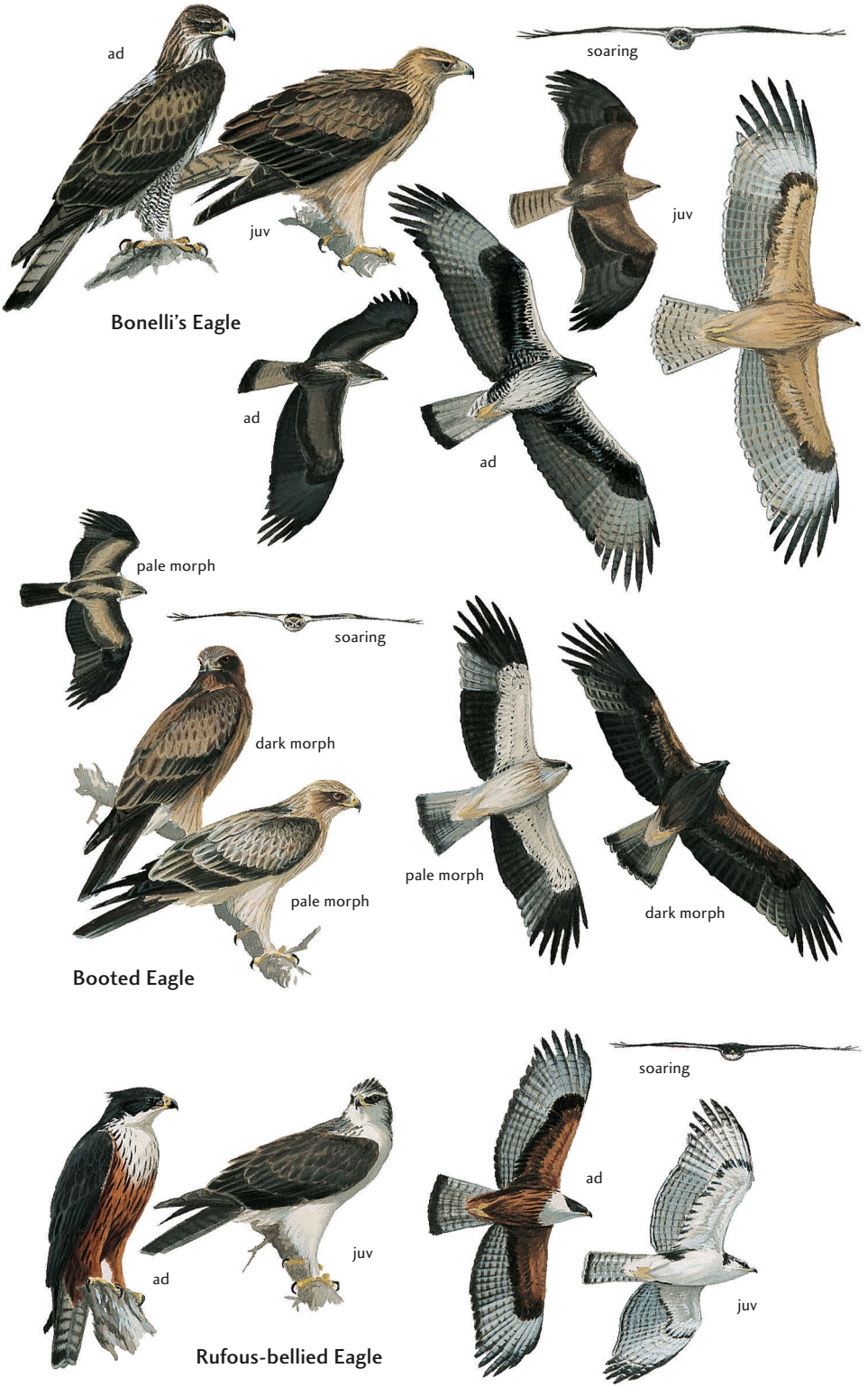
Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus* 45–53 cm

Breeds in Baluchistan and Himalayas; widespread in winter, except parts of NW and NE subcontinent, and E India. **ID** Smallish eagle which can be rather kite-like in appearance. Wings are comparatively long and narrow, with ample hand, and tail is long and square-ended. When gliding and soaring, wings are held slightly forward and are flat or slightly angled down at carpal. Twists tail in kite-like fashion. In all plumages, shows small white shoulder patches (at base of leading edge of wing), pale panel across median coverts, pale wedge on inner primaries, pale scapulars, white crescent across uppertail-coverts, and greyish underside to tail with darker centre and tip. Head, underbody and underwing-coverts are whitish, brown or rufous respectively in pale, dark and rufous morphs. Juvenile plumage is much as adult, but shows broad white trailing edge to wings and tail when fresh. **Voice** Utters a high-pitched double whistle, *ki-keee*. In display very noisy, calling *pi-peee, pi-pi-pi-pi-peee*; also at times a longer scream, *kleeek-kleeek*. **HH** An active and agile hunter, feeding on small mammals, birds and reptiles. Captures prey in trees by swift dive from above into foliage, followed by pursuit through branches; also soars at considerable heights over open country and stoops at great speed on prey on the ground. Occurs in well-wooded country in hills and plains, also semi-desert, and groves around cultivation and villages.



Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* 53–61 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of NE and SW India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Smallish, with buzzard-like wings and tail. At rest, wing-tips extend well down tail. Glides and soars with wings flat. Adult has blackish hood and upperparts, white throat and breast, and (black-streaked) rufous rest of underparts. Rufous coloration of underparts and underwing-coverts may not be apparent at a distance or in poor light. Greater underwing-coverts are tipped with black, forming blackish band, and has dark subterminal band to tail. Upperwing is uniformly dark except for pale patches at base of primaries. At rest, shows short crest. Juvenile has white underparts and underwing-coverts, dark mask and white supercilium, dark patch on sides of upper breast, and dark patch on flanks. Undersides of flight feathers and tail are lightly barred (similar to adult), and secondaries appear darker than rest of underwing; when head-on, shows striking white leading edge to wing; upperwing appears uniformly dark but for paler base to primaries. Older immature birds show a range of intermediate plumages. **Voice** Silent except in breeding season, when utters a piercing or plaintive scream. **HH** Most often seen soaring and circling high over forest, and often hunts from this position. Stoops very swiftly from the soar, with wings nearly closed (like a falcon) and seizes prey. Also catches prey on the ground by pouncing from a concealed position. Frequents evergreen and moist deciduous broadleaved forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hieraaetus*.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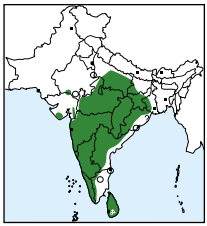
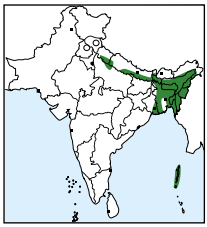


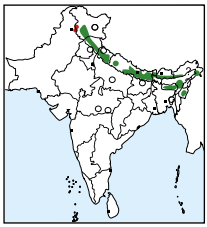
Crested Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* 58–77 cm

Resident. From S Gujarat and E Rajasthan through S Gangetic Plain to S West Bengal, entire peninsula and Sri Lanka. **ID** A large, broad-winged eagle with long and broad tail. Adult has prominent white-tipped black crest. Heavy brown streaking extending from neck to belly, and (when present) uniform rufous-brown belly, thighs and vent, are best features from Legge's Hawk Eagle. Prominent crest is best feature from Changeable Hawk Eagle; underparts of Crested and Changeable can be very similar (both can show uniformly dark or barred thighs and vent). Female is more heavily marked below than male. Does not occur as a dark morph as in Changeable. Juvenile has white to buffish head (with white-tipped black crest as adult), pale fringes to upperwing-coverts (forming variable wing panel), and white to buffish underparts which are unmarked or sparsely streaked. **Voice** Silent except in breeding season when gives an ascending series of shrill whistles, *kri-kri-kri-kri-kree-ah*. **HH** Spends much of the day perched in an upright position in a forest tree, often at the edge of a clearing, from where it makes a short dash and pounces on prey on the ground. Soars less frequently than many other raptors. Inhabits broadleaved forest dry-deciduous and semi-evergreen forest; also open well-wooded country. **TN** Considered here to be conspecific with the following species as Changeable Hawk Eagle *N. cirrhatus*.



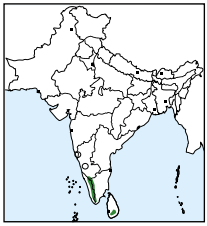
Changeable Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus* (*cirrhatus*) *limnaeetus* 63–77 cm

Resident. Base of Himalayas, NE India, Andamans and Bangladesh. **ID** Wings are slightly narrower and more parallel-edged, compared with Mountain Hawk Eagle, and has proportionately longer tail. Soars with wings held flat (except in display, when both wings and tail raised). Best told from Mountain by lack of prominent crest, paler sides to head, boldly streaked underparts (with any barring confined to flanks, thighs and vent), and narrower dark tail barring. Occurs as dark morph when confusable with Black Eagle; best told by structural differences, greyish underside to tail with diffuse dark terminal band, and extensive greyish bases to underside of flight feathers which contrast with darker underwing-coverts and wing-tips. Juvenile has pale fringes to upperparts (some with largely white forewing), pale buff underparts and underwing-coverts, and narrower and more numerous tail-bands than adult. Difficult to tell from juvenile Mountain but has paler head and lacks crest. Has pale crescent across the outer primaries, lacking in Mountain. *S. l. andamanensis* of the Andamans is much smaller; some with pale, faintly barred thighs and vent. **Voice** Very noisy in the breeding season; calls similar to Crested's but slower, mellower. **HH** Habits similar to Crested's. Occurs in evergreen and moist-deciduous forest.



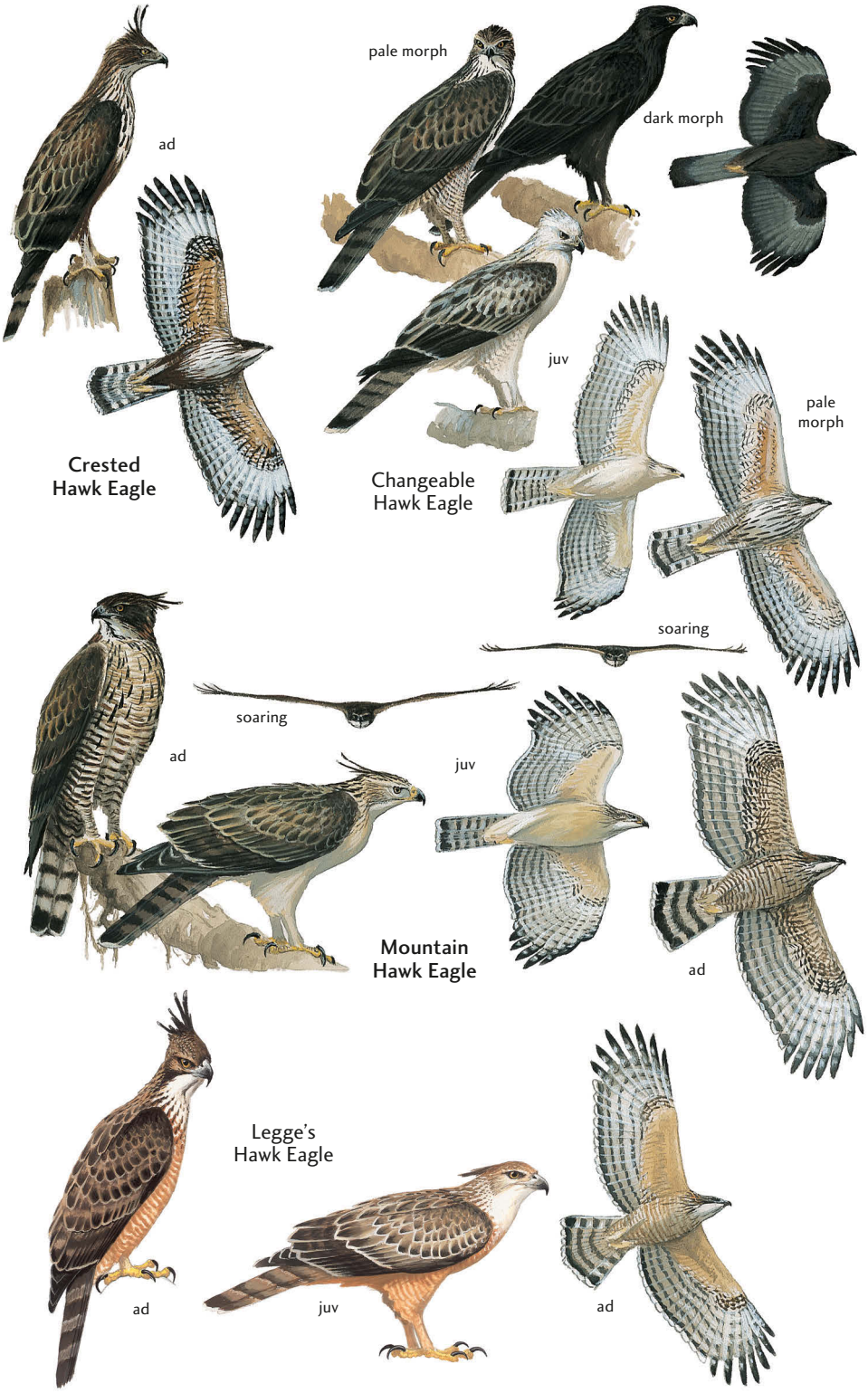
Mountain Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus nipalensis* 72 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of NE India. **ID** Wings broader than on Changeable, with squarer wing-tips and more pronounced curve to trailing edge, and has proportionately shorter tail. Soars with wings in shallow V. Distinguished from Changeable by prominent crest, dark crown and ear-coverts (with variable pale supercilium), heavily barred underparts and underwing-coverts, whitish-barred uppertail-coverts, and stronger dark barring on tail. Juvenile told from juvenile Changeable by more extensive dark streaking on crown and sides of head, white-tipped black crest, and fewer, more prominent tail-bars. Has patch of light and dark barring on inner primaries, lacking in Changeable. Noisy in the breeding season. **Voice** Gives three shrill notes *tlueet-weet-weet*; in display has a rapid bubbling call. **HH** Habits are similar to those of Crested's but frequently seen soaring above forest, singly or in pairs. Frequents forested hills and mountains. **TN** Formerly placed in *Spizaetus*.



Legge's Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus* (*nipalensis*) *kelaarti* 70 cm

Resident. SW India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Has paler crown and streaked ear-coverts, restricted breast streaking, and paler rufous barring on underparts compared with Mountain; underwing-coverts are buff and almost unmarked, and median throat stripe is almost lacking (broad and prominent in Mountain). Patterning of underparts, comparatively unmarked underwing-coverts, and structural differences help separate from Crested. Juvenile has rufous-brown bands across breast (underparts unmarked or with sparse streaking in juvenile Crested). **Voice** Generally silent but may utter a loud scream. **HH** Inhabits forested areas. **TN** Treated here as conspecific with Mountain Hawk Eagle *N. nipalensis*.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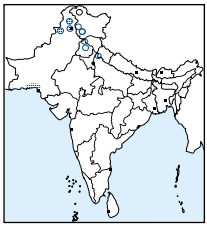
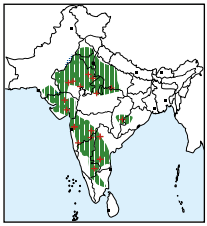


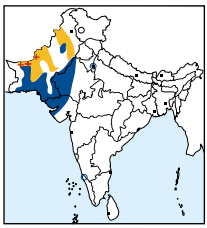
Little Bustard *Tetrax tetrax* 40–45 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan and N India. **ID** Small, stocky bustard, which shows extensive white panel across secondaries and inner primaries in flight. Has distinctive rapid 'winnowing' flight action on stiff, noticeably bowed wings. Breeding male has grey face, and black-and-white pattern on neck and breast. Non-breeding male is similar to female but is less heavily marked on upperparts and whiter on underparts, and shows more white in wing. Female is warm buff-brown, with extensive black streaking on head and neck; has coarse blackish markings on upperparts, and black barring and chevrons on breast and flanks. **Voice** A hoarse grunt when flushed. **HH** Open grassland and short crops.



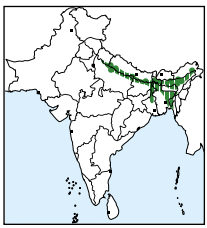
Great Indian Bustard *Ardeotis nigriceps* 92–122 cm

Resident. India. **ID** Very large. Flight action is stiff, with wing-beats slow and heavy; upperwing mainly dark with whitish tips to blackish coverts. Male has black breast-band and almost white neck. Female smaller; with greyer neck, whitish supercilium, and breast-band is broken or absent. **Voice** A bark or bellow in alarm; in display, has a deep booming moan. **HH** Dry grasslands with bushes; also adjacent open dry deciduous forest. Globally threatened. **AN** Indian Bustard.



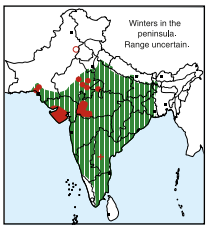
Macqueen's Bustard *Chlamydotis macqueenii* 55–65 cm

Mainly winter visitor to Pakistan and NW India; also breeds in S Pakistan. **ID** Medium-sized, short-legged bustard with rather long tail. In all plumages appears crested and shows a dark vertical stripe down neck. Upperparts are sandy, with distinct dark bars. In flight, shows extensive white patch on outer primaries and pale panel across greater coverts. Sexes similar, but female is smaller, crest and dark neck stripe are less pronounced and has less distinct pale panel across greater coverts. **HH** Semi-desert with sand dunes and sparsely scattered shrubs, sandy grasslands; also mustard fields in winter. Globally threatened. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Houbara Bustard *C. undulata*.



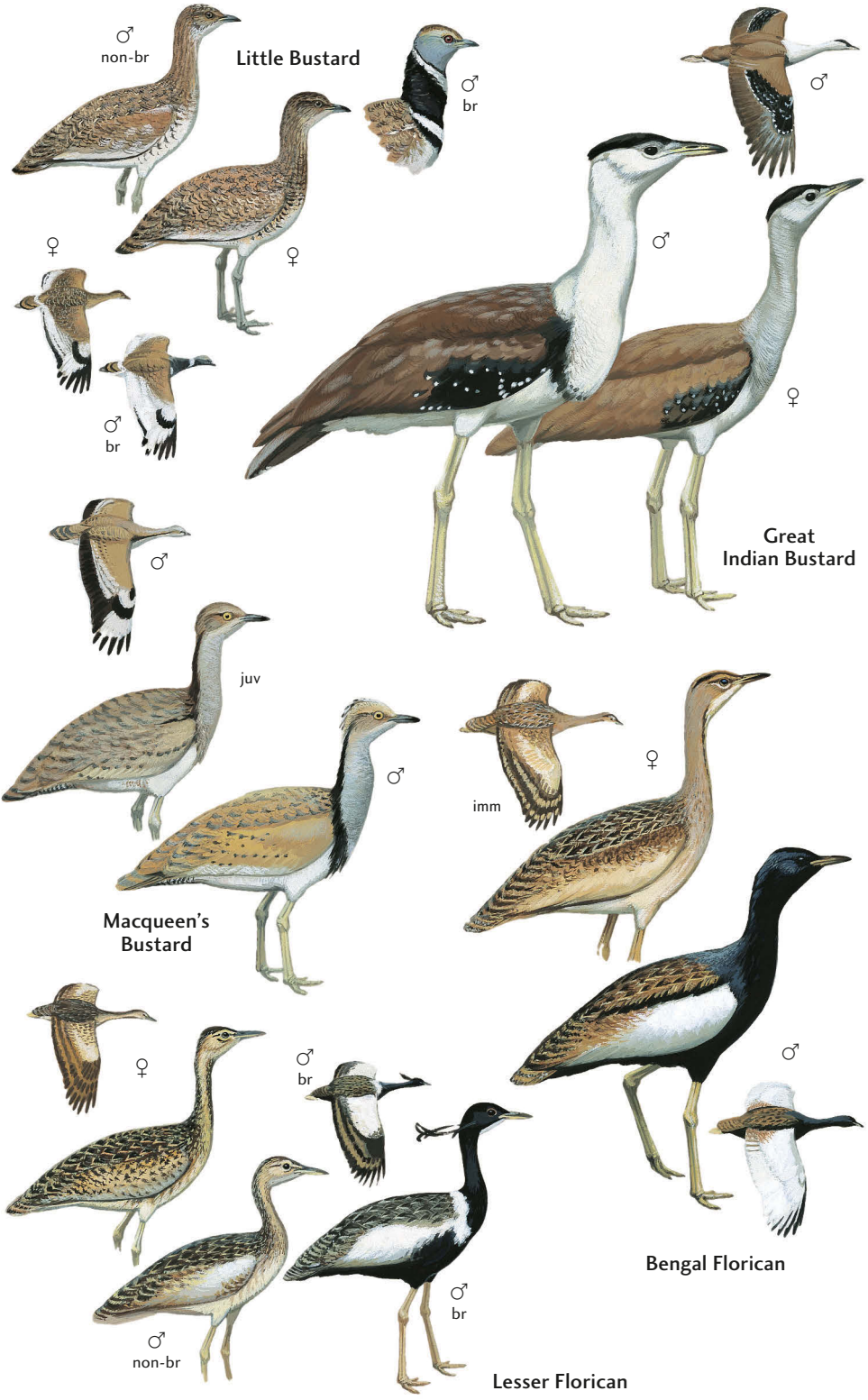
Bengal Florican *Houbaropsis bengalensis* 66 cm

Resident. Lowlands in N India and S Nepal. **ID** Larger and stockier than Lesser Florican, with broader head and thicker neck. Breeding male has black head, neck and underparts, and white wing-coverts. In flight wings are entirely white except for black tips. Non-breeding male is similar to female but with mainly white wings and retains some black on belly. Female is larger than male and has buffish neck and underparts, and pale buff coverts with dark flight feathers. Immature is similar to female but has banding on flight feathers and wing coverts are more heavily marked. **Voice** A shrill, metallic *chik-chik-chik* when disturbed. **HH** Tall grassland with scattered bushes and interspersed with short grass areas. Globally threatened.



Lesser Florican *Sypheotides indicus* 46–51 cm

Resident. Breeds NW India; winters south to SE India. **ID** Smaller and slimmer than Bengal, with smaller head, finer neck and more rapid wing-beats. Male breeding has black head/neck and underparts, and white wing-coverts. Differs by white throat, spatulate-tipped head plumes, and white 'hind collar'; also white of wing is more restricted, and has rufous banding across dark flight feathers. Non-breeding male similar to female, but has whiter wing-coverts and black underwing coverts. Female and immature from Bengal by dark crescent below eye, dark stripes on fore-neck, and rufous-barred primaries. **Voice** Frog-like croak during display; short whistle when disturbed. **HH** Dry grassland with scattered bushes and cotton and millet crops. Globally threatened.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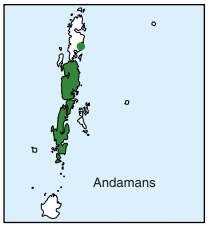
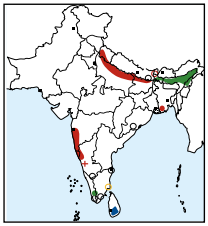


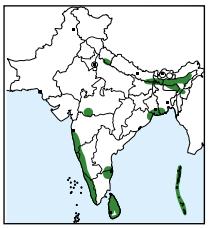
Andaman Crake *Rallina canningi* 34 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Deep maroon-chestnut upperparts with bold black-and-white barring on underparts and stout greenish bill. Larger size, deeper chestnut coloration, unbarred chestnut undertail-coverts, and bill size/coloration are best features from Slaty-legged Crake. Juvenile has duller chestnut head, breast and upperparts, and barring on underparts is less pronounced. **Voice** A deep throaty croak, *kroop... kroop* and a sharp *chick, chick* when alarmed. **HH** Forest marshes.



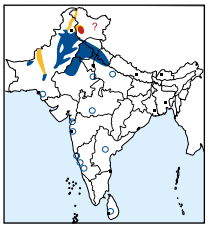
Slaty-legged Crake *Rallina eurizonoides* 25 cm

Resident and summer visitor. **ID** Leg colour and extensive black-and-white barring on underparts are best features from Ruddy-breasted. Adult told from similar Red-legged Crake (see Appendix) by greenish or grey legs, lack of prominent white-and-black barring on wings, olive-brown mantle contrasting with rufous neck and breast, narrower and more numerous white barring on underparts, prominent white throat, and dull greyish-pink orbital ring. Juvenile from juvenile Red-legged by leg colour, darker olive-brown upperparts, and lack of prominent barring on wings. **Voice** A *kek-kek, kek-kek*, a loud drumming croak, a subdued *kok,* and a *krrrr* alarm call. **HH** Marshes in well-wooded country.



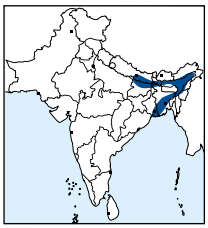
Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus* 27 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Longish bill with red at base (stouter and straighter than in Water Rail). Legs are olive-grey. Adult has chestnut crown and nape, slate-grey foreneck and breast, white barring and spotting on the upperparts, and white barring on the dark grey belly, flanks and undertail-coverts. Juvenile is duller, with crown and nape being dark-streaked olive-brown (some with rufous tinge), upperparts are paler olive-brown and more sparsely marked with white, and underparts are browner with less pronounced barring on flanks. *G. s. obscurior* of the Andaman Is is darker, including darker slate on sides of head, foreneck and breast; the juvenile of this form is almost blackish with whitish barring on the wing coverts and flanks. **Voice** A sharp *cerrk*. **HH** Reedy marshes, mangroves, village irrigation tanks and paddy-fields.



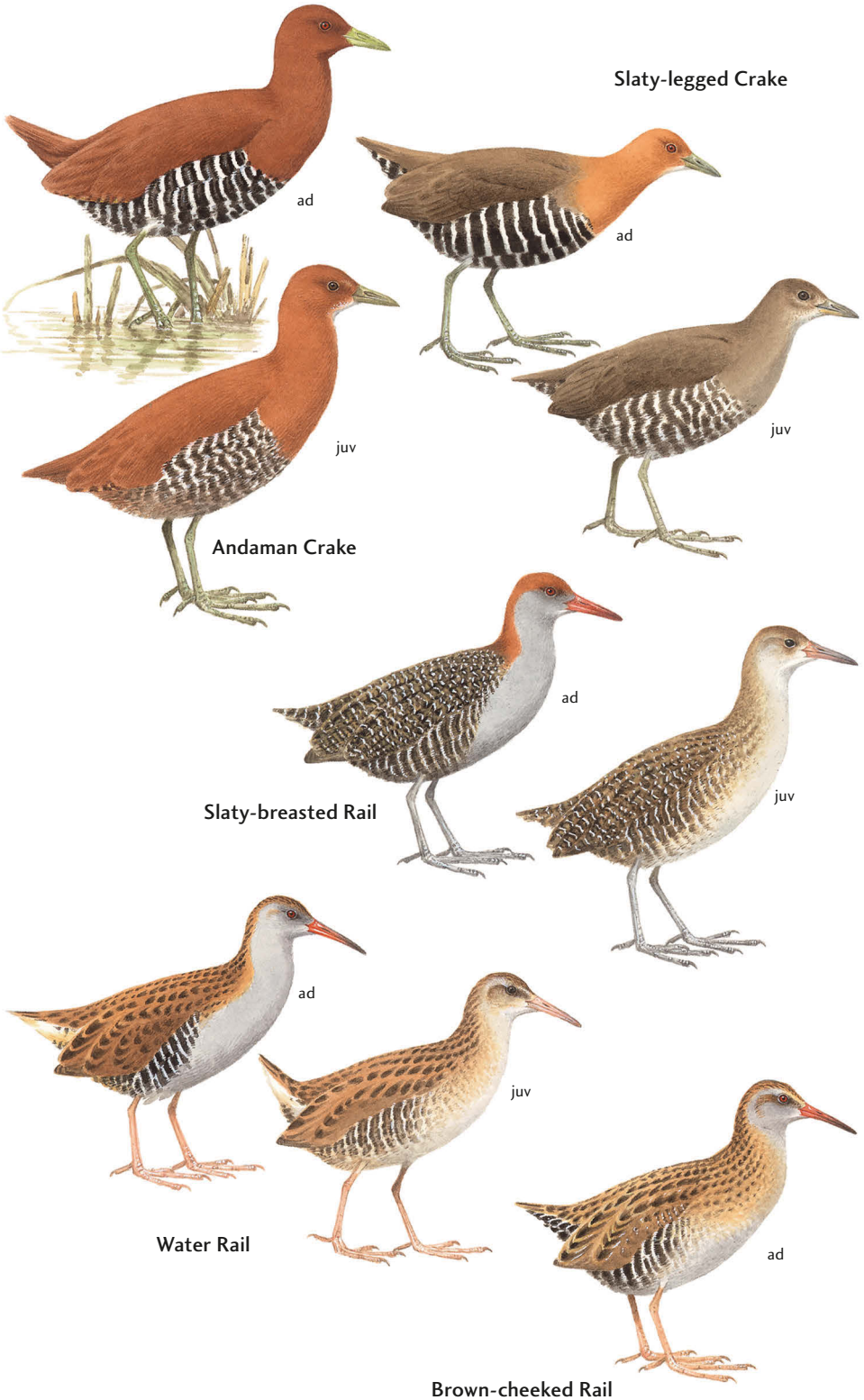
Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* 23–28 cm

Breeds in Kashmir; winter visitor, mainly to N subcontinent. **ID** Longish and slightly downcurved bill with red at base. Legs pinkish. Adult has dark-streaked olive-brown upperparts, grey underparts, black-and-white barring on flanks, and white undertail-coverts. Juvenile has upperparts similar to adult, but underparts are buff with extensive dark brown mottling, flank barring is brown and buff, and undertail-coverts are rufous-buff. **Voice** Call resembles a squealing pig, rises in pitch and then dies away. **HH** Reedy marshes. **AN** European Water Rail.



Brown-cheeked Rail *Rallus indicus* 23–28 cm

Winter visitor. SW Nepal to E Arunachal, NE India, Bangladesh, S West Bengal. **ID** Similar to Water Rail, but shows more pronounced supercilium (due to darker eye-stripe), browner wash across breast, and has barred undertail-coverts. Juvenile similar to juvenile Water Rail but with barred undertail-coverts. **Voice** A metallic, strident *skrink, skrink* beginning explosively and repeated after a few seconds. **HH** Marshes. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Water Rail *R. aquaticus*. **AN** Eastern Water Rail.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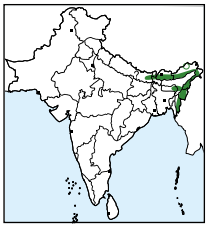
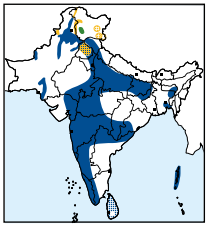


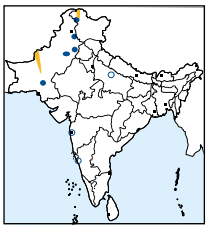
Black-tailed Crake *Porzana bicolor* 25 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Red legs, iris and eye-ring. Bill greenish with variable red at base. Sooty-grey head and underparts, rufous-brown upperparts, and sooty-black tail and undertail-coverts. Juvenile is browner on upperparts and duller on underparts and with some white mottling on breast and belly; iris is brown, and bill and legs are duller/browner. **Voice** Utters quite harsh rasping notes, often followed by a prolonged trill which is more obviously descending that that of Ruddy-breasted Crake. **HH** Forest pools and marshes, dense undergrowth at paddy-field edges.



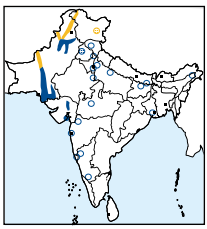
Baillon's Crake *Porzana pusilla* 17–19 cm

Breeds in Indian Himalayas; widespread winter visitor and passage migrant. **ID** Adult has rufous-brown upperparts (brighter than in male Little) extensively marked with white; barring on flanks extends farther forward than on Little, and bill is all green. Juvenile has buff underparts; compared with Little, wings are shorter, barring on underparts more extensive and has more extensive white flecking to warmer brown upperparts. **Voice** Song may be heard on migration: a rattling rasp, *trrrrr-trrrrr,* also a *tyiuk* alarm call. Marshes, edges of lakes and pools with emergent vegetation, and paddy-fields.



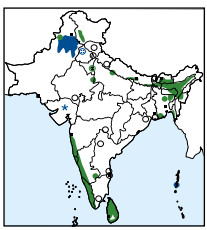
Little Crake *Porzana parva* 20–23 cm

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Pakistan and W India. **ID** Longer wings and tail than Baillon's (primaries extending noticeably beyond tertials at rest), with less extensive barring on underparts, and pronounced pale edges to scapulars and tertials (features for all plumages). Adult also with red at base of bill. Male is blue-grey below. Female has blue-grey on supercilium and cheeks, but underparts are buff. Juvenile is similar to female, but with whiter face and breast, and more extensive barring on flanks (but less than on Baillon's). **Voice** Song may be heard on migration: a repeated loud, nasal *quek... quek... quek,* sometimes accelerating then falling in pitch to end with *ak-uk-u-u-u*. **HH** Marshes with dense reed cover.



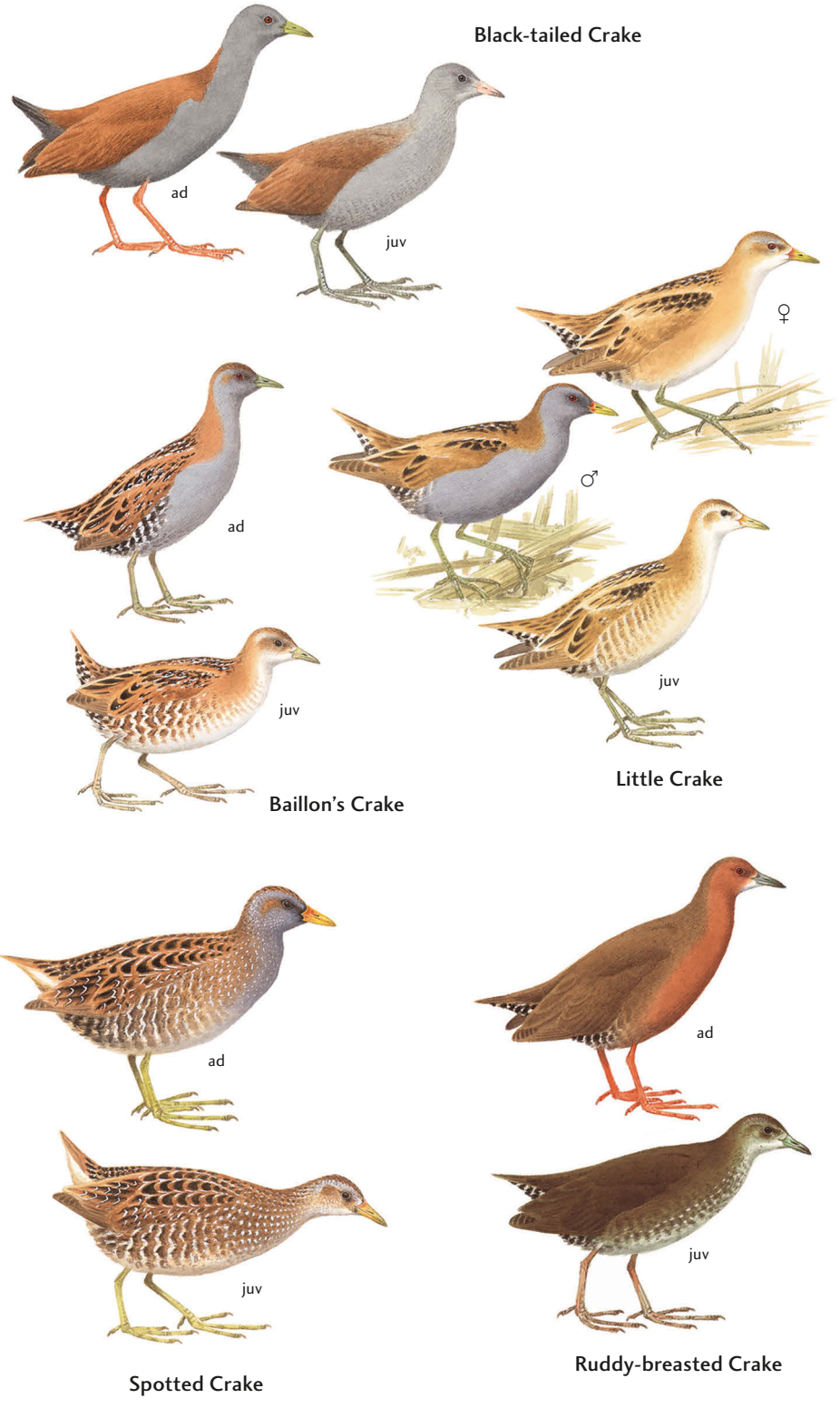
Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana* 22–24 cm

Widespread winter visitor; unrecorded in E India. **ID** Profuse white spotting on head, neck and breast. Stout bill, irregularly barred flanks, and unmarked buff undertail-coverts. Adult has yellowish bill with red at base, and grey head and breast. Sexes similar, but female has less grey on head, neck and breast, and is more profusely spotted with white. Juvenile similar to female but with buffish-brown head and breast, and bill is brown. **Voice** Song may be heard on migration: a swishing *h-wet... hwet,* resembling a whiplash. **HH** Reedy marshes and reed-edged lakes, reservoirs and canals.



Ruddy-breasted Crake *Porzana fusca* 22 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** From other crakes by combination of dull chestnut underparts, unmarked dark olive-brown upperparts, indistinct dark brown and white barring on rear flanks and undertail-coverts (much more restricted than in Slaty-legged and Andaman Crakes) and red legs. Juvenile dark olive-brown, with white-barred undertail-coverts and fine greyish-white mottling/barring on rest of underparts. Legs duller and iris is brown (rather than red as in adult). **Voice** Utters a single soft *crake* at considerable intervals; a loud metallic *twek* repeated at 2–3 second intervals, often followed by a squeaky trilling. **HH** Reedy marshes, paddy-fields and canals.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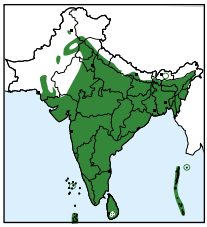
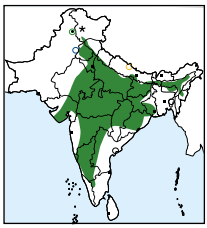
Ruddy-breasted Crake



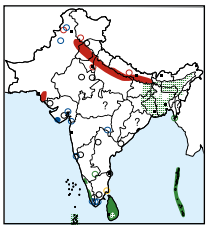
White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* 32 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Adult has grey upperparts and white face, foreneck and breast; undertail-coverts rufous-cinnamon. Bill and legs are greenish or yellowish, with swollen reddish base to upper mandible. Juvenile has greyish face, and sides of neck and breast, and browner upperparts; bill and legs are darker. **Voice** Mainly vocal when breeding; calls include a metallic *krr-kwaak-kwaak* and a *kook... kook... kook* often following loud roars, croaks and chuckles. **HH** Thick cover close to fresh waters.



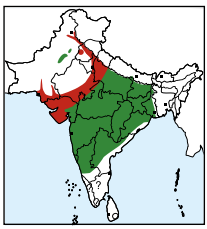
Brown Crake *Amaurornis akool* 28 cm

Resident. N and C subcontinent. **ID** Olive-brown upperparts, grey face and breast, and olive-brown flanks and undertail-coverts; underparts lack barring. Has red iris, greenish bill and pinkish-brown to purple legs. Juvenile is similar to adult, but has dull iris and paler grey underparts. **Voice** Calls include a shrill rattle, a long drawn-out vibrating whistle and a short plaintive note. **HH** Reedy marshes and vegetation bordering watercourses.



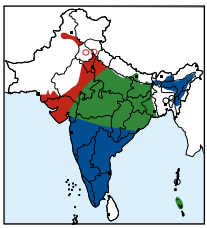
Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea* M 43 cm, F 36 cm

Widespread resident and summer visitor. **ID** Breeding male is mainly greyish-black, with yellow-tipped red bill and red shield and horn. Upperparts fringed with grey and buff. Legs bright red. First-summer male has broad rufous-buff fringes to plumage. Non-breeding male and female have buff underparts with fine barring, and buff fringes to dark brown upperparts. Legs greenish. Juvenile has uniform rufous-buff underparts, and rufous-buff fringes to upperparts. Male is larger than female with heavier bill. **Voice** Gives a series of 10–12 *kok-kok-kok* notes followed by a deep, hollow *utumb-utumb-utumb* repeated 10–12 times, and then by five or six *kluck-kluck-kluck* notes. **HH** Marshes, flooded fields, canals, ponds and ditches with emergent vegetation.



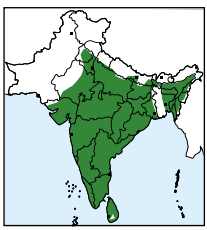
Small Buttonquail *Turnix sylvaticus* 13 cm

Mainly resident; summer visitor to northwest. **ID** Very small and with pointed tail. Bill greyish, and legs pinkish to greyish. More heavily marked above than Yellow-legged Buttonquail; buff edges to scapulars and tertials form prominent lines. Has rufous hind neck and mantle fringed with buff. Buff-fringed, dark-centred coverts result in spotted appearance, but less prominently so than in Yellow-legged. Underparts are similar to many Yellow-legged, with orange-buff lower throat and breast, and bold black spotting on sides of breast (becoming chestnut spotting on flanks). Female has brighter and more extensive rufous on neck than male. **Voice** Repetitive booming call. **HH** Scrub and grass at cultivation edges, also grassland. **AN** Common Buttonquail.



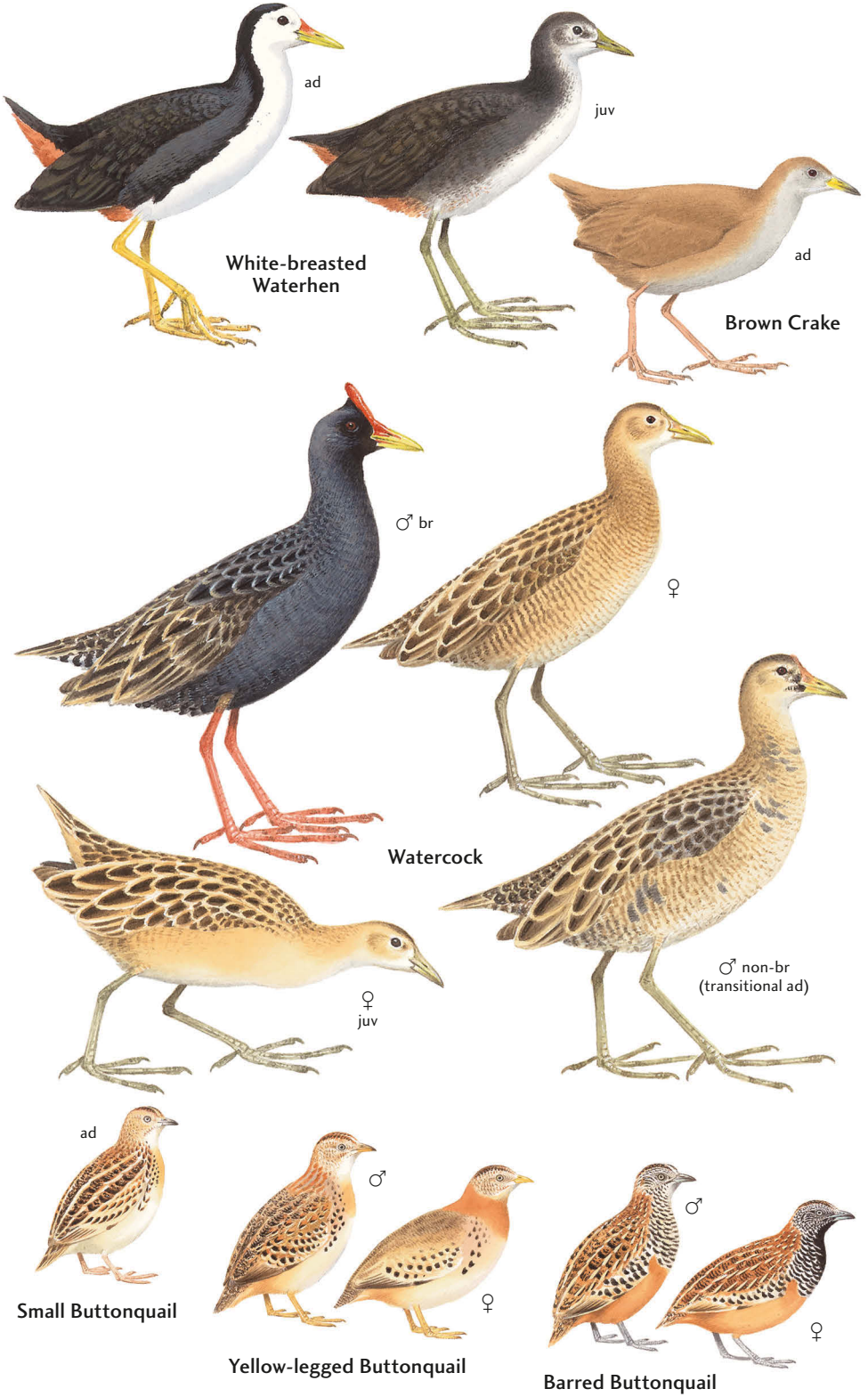
Yellow-legged Buttonquail *Turnix tanki* 15–16 cm

Mainly resident; summer visitor to northwest. Widespread, chiefly in lowlands. Yellow legs and bill (with variable dark culmen and tip). Bold black spotting to buff coverts and upper flanks. Upperparts more uniform than Small, varying from grey and finely dotted, to being more heavily marked with black and diffusely marked with rufous (with buff edges to some feathers, although not as prominent on Small). Some (breeding?) females distinctive, with unmarked rufous nape and upper mantle, rufous-orange throat, sides of neck and breast, and blackish crown. Other females less striking with buff crown-stripe, indistinct rufous collar, and orange-buff breast. Rufous collar lacking in male. **Voice** Low-pitched hoot, repeated with increasing strength. **HH** Scrub and grassland.



Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator* 15 cm

Resident. Widespread, mainly in lowlands. **ID** Grey bill and legs, and bold black barring on sides of neck, breast and wing-coverts. Orange-rufous to orange-buff flanks and belly clearly demarcated from barred breast. Most show buff crown-stripe, and speckled supercilium is often apparent. Female generally, but not always, has black throat and centre of breast. Male usually has greyish- or buffish-white throat. Males of some races can have black throat. Four races on subcontinent, varying mainly in extent of black and rufous markings on upperparts and in depth of coloration of belly and flanks. *T. s. leggei* in Sri Lanka has yellow base to bill. **Voice** Calls include a rattling *drr-r-r-r-r-r* and a booming *hoon-hoon-hoon-hoon*. **HH** Scrub and grassland.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Yellow-legged Buttonquail
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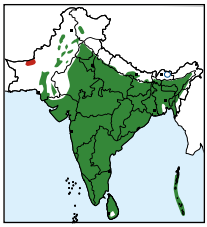
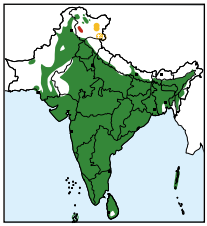
Barred Buttonquail



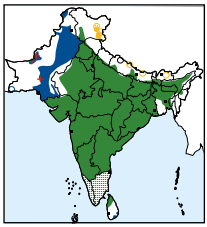
Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* 45–50 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Large size, purplish-blue coloration with variable greyish head, and huge red bill and frontal shield. Female smaller than male. Juvenile is duller than adult, with greyer neck and underparts, more olive-brown above, duller red bill (which is blackish at first), and duller legs and feet. **Voice** An explosive, nasal, rising *quinquinkrrkrr;* in alarm; also a soft *chuck-chuck*. **HH** Large marshes and extensive reedbeds bordering wetlands.



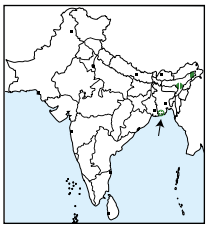
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* 32–35 cm

Widespread resident and winter visitor. **ID** White lateral undertail-coverts, with black central stripe, and usually shows white line along flanks. Breeding adult has blackish head and neck, slate-grey underparts, and dark olive-brown upperparts; red bill with yellow tip and red frontal shield. Non-breeding adult has duller bill and legs. Juvenile has dull green bill, and is mainly brown with whitish throat, grey wash to breast and flanks, and variable whitish patch on belly. Immature resembles non-breeding adult, but has duller body plumage, with grey of underparts washed with brown and buff, whitish throat, and less prominent pale border to the flanks. **Voice** A *cuk cuk cuk* and *kekuk* in alarm; also a loud explosive *kurr-ik* and *kark*; and soft muttering *kook... kook*. **HH** Lakes, marshes and irrigation tanks; standing freshwater with emergent vegetation.



Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* 36–38 cm

Widespread resident and winter visitor. **ID** Blackish, with white bill and frontal shield. Shows paler trailing edge to secondaries in flight. Immature duller than adult with whitish throat. Juvenile grey-brown, with whitish throat and breast. **Voice** Calls include a high-pitched *pyee* and a series of long, soft *dp... dp* notes. **HH** Standing freshwaters with large areas of open water and emergent vegetation. **AN** Common Coot.



Masked Finfoot *Heliopais personatus* 56 cm

Resident? Assam and Bangladesh. **ID** A large, grebe-like bird with huge yellow bill, green legs and feet and long pointed tail. Male has black forehead, throat and foreneck, white stripe extending down sides of neck, and small yellow horn at base of bill (in breeding condition). Female has white throat and foreneck. Immature is similar to female, but has grey forehead. **Voice** A high-pitched bubbling sound and a loud grunting quack. **HH** Pools in dense forest and mangrove creeks. Globally threatened.

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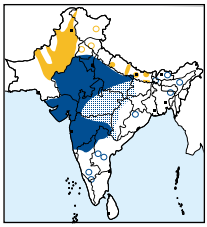
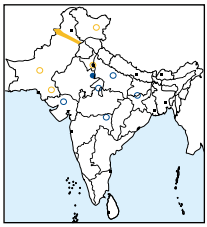


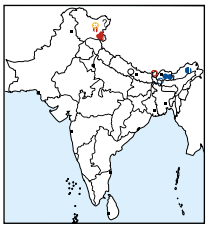
Demoiselle Crane *Grus virgo* 90–100 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly W India; passage migrant in Pakistan. **ID** Small crane, with short, fine bill. Adult has black head and neck with white tuft behind eye, and grey crown; black neck feathers extend as a point beyond breast, and elongated tertials project as shallow arc beyond body, giving rise to distinctive shape. Immature is initially almost entirely grey, with slate-grey on foreneck, and with shorter all-grey tertials. By first winter (on arrival in subcontinent) is similar to adult, but head and neck are dark grey and less contrasting, tuft behind eye is grey and less prominent, has brown cast to upperparts, and elongated feathers of foreneck and tertials are shorter. In flight, black breast helps separate from Common Crane at a distance; also the legs and neck appear relatively shorter, and the wings shorter and broader-based. **Voice** Flight call is a *garrooo,* higher pitched than that of Common. **HH** Cultivation, large rivers with sandbanks and reservoirs. In Pakistan rests in remote desert areas on migration.



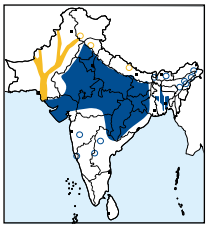
Siberian Crane *Grus leucogeranus* 120–140 cm

Former winter visitor. Mainly Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary. **ID** Adult is white, with bare red face and bill base, pinkish-red legs, and noticeably downcurved reddish bill; long, downcurved white tertials conceal black primaries at rest. Immature has brownish bill and fully feathered head at first and is strongly marked with cinnamon-brown on head, neck, mantle and wings, with some white body feathers by first winter; by third winter, red mask is apparent and body feathers are mainly white. In flight, both adult and immature show black primaries which contrast with rest of wing. **Voice** Usually only heard before going to roost; a musical *ahooya* in flight, and a subdued *krroum* or *turr* in alarm. **HH** Freshwater marshes. Globally threatened.



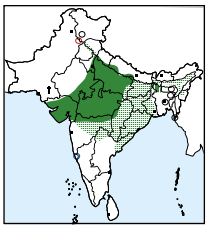
Black-necked Crane *Grus nigricollis* 139 cm

Breeds in Ladakh; winters mainly in Bhutan. **ID** Large, stocky crane, with comparatively short neck and legs. Adult is pale grey with contrasting black head, upper neck and bunched tertials; shows more contrast between black flight feathers and pale grey coverts than Common, and has black tail-band. Immature has buff or brownish head, neck, mantle and mottling to wing-coverts. As adult by second winter. **Voice** Variety of calls, most slightly higher pitched than Common, but difficult to distinguish. **HH** Summers by high-altitude lakes; winters in fallow cultivation and marshes. Globally threatened.



Common Crane *Grus grus* 110–120 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly N India. **ID** Adult has mainly black head and foreneck, with white stripe behind eye extending down side of neck; red patch on crown is visible at close range. Immature has brown markings on upperparts with buff or grey head and neck; adult head pattern apparent on some by first winter and as adult by second winter. In flight, both adult and immature show black primaries and secondaries which contrast with grey wing-coverts. **Voice** Flight call is a loud, trumpeting *krrooah*; on ground utters similar bugling calls including typical *kroo-krii-kroo-krii* duet. **HH** Winter crops, rivers with sandbanks, lakes and reservoirs.



Sarus Crane *Grus antigone* 156 cm

Resident. Mainly NW India and W Nepal. **ID** A huge, mainly pale grey crane with reddish legs and very large bill. Adult is grey, with bare red head and upper neck and bare ashy-green crown. In flight, black primaries contrast with rest of wing. Immature has rusty-buff feathering to head and neck, and upperparts are marked with brown; older immatures are similar to adult but have dull red head and upper neck and lack greenish crown of adult. *G. a. sharpii*, which occurs in NE subcontinent, is darker grey than nominate, with uniform grey neck (whiter on lower neck in nominate), with elongated tertials concolorous with rest of upperparts. **Voice** A very loud trumpeting, usually a duet by pairs at rest or in flight. **HH** Cultivation in well-watered country; also marshes, lakes and large rivers. Globally threatened.

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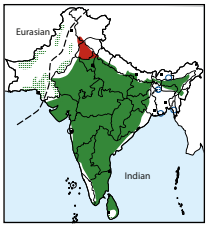
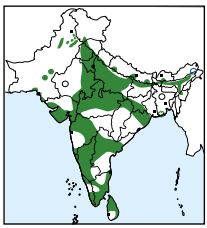


Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oedicnemus* 40–44 cm

Probably resident. NW Pakistan? and Baluchistan. **ID** Large, sandy-brown and streaked, with short yellow-and-black bill, striking yellow eye, and long yellow legs. Larger, paler and more finely streaked than very similar Indian, with comparatively smaller bill, longer tail and shorter tarsi. Bill is more extensively yellow, and dark and pale bars across wing-coverts are less prominent. Juvenile similar but more rufous above, with head pattern and wing-covert barring less pronounced. **Voice** Mainly vocal at night. Slurred whistles which build up in pitch and volume to a series of clear, loud *cur-lee* calls and then die away; also variants of *cur-lee*. **HH** Very wary; if suspicious, runs off with head low, and squats on ground to camouflage itself. Rests in shade. Open stony or scrubby desert and semi-desert, and riverine scrub. **AN** Eurasian Stone-curlew.

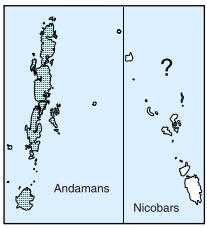
Indian Thick-knee *Burhinus* (*oedicnemus*) *indicus* 36–39 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Very similar to Eurasian Thick-knee, but smaller, darker and more heavily streaked, with larger bill, shorter tail, and longer tarsi. Bill has more black, and shows more pronounced bars on wing-coverts (with broader pale panel). **Voice** Piercing calls recalling Great Thick-knee as much or more than Eurasian. **HH** Habits similar to Eurasian's. Dry scrub, stony dry riverbeds with scrub. **AN** Indian Stone-curlew.



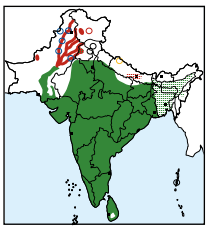
Great Thick-knee *Esacus recurvirostris* 49–54 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Has large, slightly upturned black-and-yellow bill, and yellow eye. At rest, most striking features are white forehead and 'spectacles' contrasting with black ear-coverts, and blackish and whitish bands across wing-coverts. In flight, has grey panel on wings and white patches on primaries. **Voice** A rising, wailing whistle of two or more syllables; a loud, harsh *see-eek* alarm call. **HH** Habits similar to Eurasian's but usually rests in full sun. Stony banks of larger rivers and lakes; coastal wetlands. **AN** Great Stone-curlew.



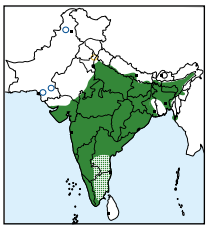
Beach Thick-knee *Esacus neglectus* 53–57 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Stouter and straighter bill than Great Thick-knee. Has different head pattern, with mainly black forehead and lores, and more black on sides of crown and ear-coverts (enclosing white supercilium). In flight, has different wing pattern from Great, with grey (rather than mainly black) secondaries and white inner primaries. Mainly nocturnal. **Voice** A harsh, wailing *wee-loo*; a *quip* or *peep* alarm call. **HH** Habits similar to Great's. Sandy and muddy shores and coral reefs. **AN** Beach Stone-curlew.



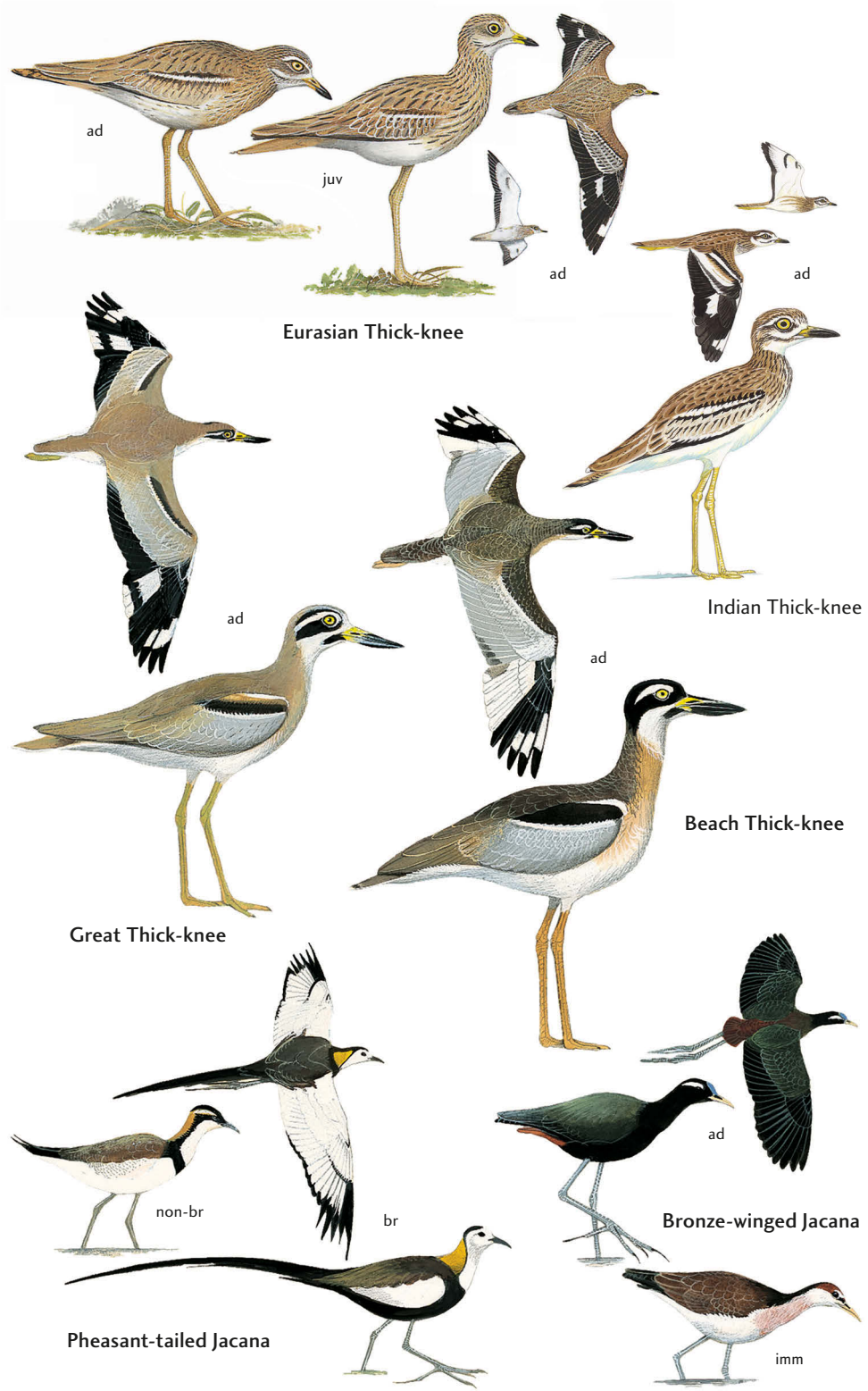
Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* 31 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Extensive white on upperwing, and white underwing. Yellowish patch on sides of neck. Adult breeding has brown underparts and long, curved tail. Adult non-breeding and juvenile lack elongated tail and have white underparts, with dark line down side of neck and dark breast-band (which are too distinct in plate). Juvenile has buff fringes to upperparts, and barring across breast. **Voice** A distinctive *me-e-ou* or *me-oup* in breeding season, and a nasal *tewu*. **HH** Freshwater wetlands well vegetated with floating plants.



Bronze-winged Jacana *Metopidius indicus* 28–31 cm

Widespread resident; largely absent from Pakistan and Sri Lanka. **ID** Dark upperwing and underwing. Adult has white supercilium, bronze-green upperparts, and blackish underparts. Juvenile has orange-buff wash on breast, short white supercilium, and yellowish bill. **Voice** A short, harsh grunt and a wheezy, piping *seek-seek-seek*. **HH** Habitat similar to that of Pheasant-tailed.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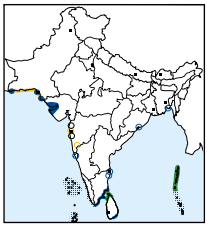
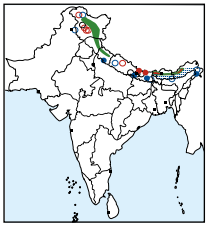


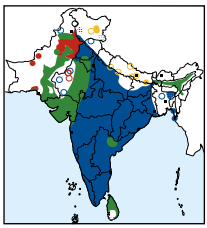
Crab-plover *Dromas ardeola* 38–41 cm

Winter visitor to coasts; breeds in Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID** Black-and-white plumage, with stout black bill and very long blue-grey legs. Juvenile like washed-out version of adult with black streaking on nape and grey rather (than black) mantle. **Voice** Nasal, yappy *kirruc* flight call; also *kwerk-kwerk-kwerk-kwerk*. **HH** Found singly, in pairs or in small parties, but hundreds recorded at traditional roost sites. Mainly crepuscular and usually very wary, taking flight at a distance. Feeds chiefly on crabs. Flies with neck and legs extended. Feeds on intertidal mudflats and coral reefs; roosts on reefs, sand spits and coastal rocks.



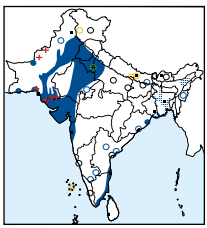
Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* 38–41 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Adult has black face, downcurved dark red bill, and black and white breast-bands. In flight, shows white patch at base of inner primaries and blackish tail-band. Juvenile has brownish upperparts with buff fringes, faint breast-band, and dull legs and bill. **Voice** A ringing *klew-klew* and rapid *tee-tee-tee-tee*. **HH** Single birds, pairs or small groups forage inconspicuously and quietly in mountain rivers and streams. Usually quite wary; if alarmed nervously bobs its head and wags its tail. Seeks aquatic invertebrates by walking slowly through water, using its long decurved bill to probe around and under stones; frequently wades belly-deep. Fast-flowing mountain streams and rivers with shingle beds.



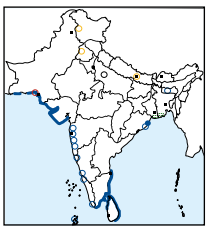
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* 35–40 cm

Resident or summer visitor in Pakistan, NW India and Sri Lanka; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Slender appearance, with long pinkish legs, and a fine straight bill. Black upperwing strongly contrasts with white back V in flight. Adult at rest shows mainly white head, neck and underbody, contrasting with upperparts, and reddish-pink legs. Both sexes can show variable amounts of black and/or dusky grey on the crown and hind neck. Juvenile has browner upperparts with buff fringes. **Voice** A noisy wader, readily agitated; calls include *kek*... *kek* and a rather anxious *kikikikiki*. **HH** Gregarious throughout the year; sometimes breeds in colonies. A graceful wader that walks slowly and deliberately. Forages on dry mud and by wading into the shallows; sometimes immerses head and neck in water. Eats insects and also aquatic invertebrates and small fish. Freshwater wetlands, brackish marshes, irrigation tanks and saltpans.



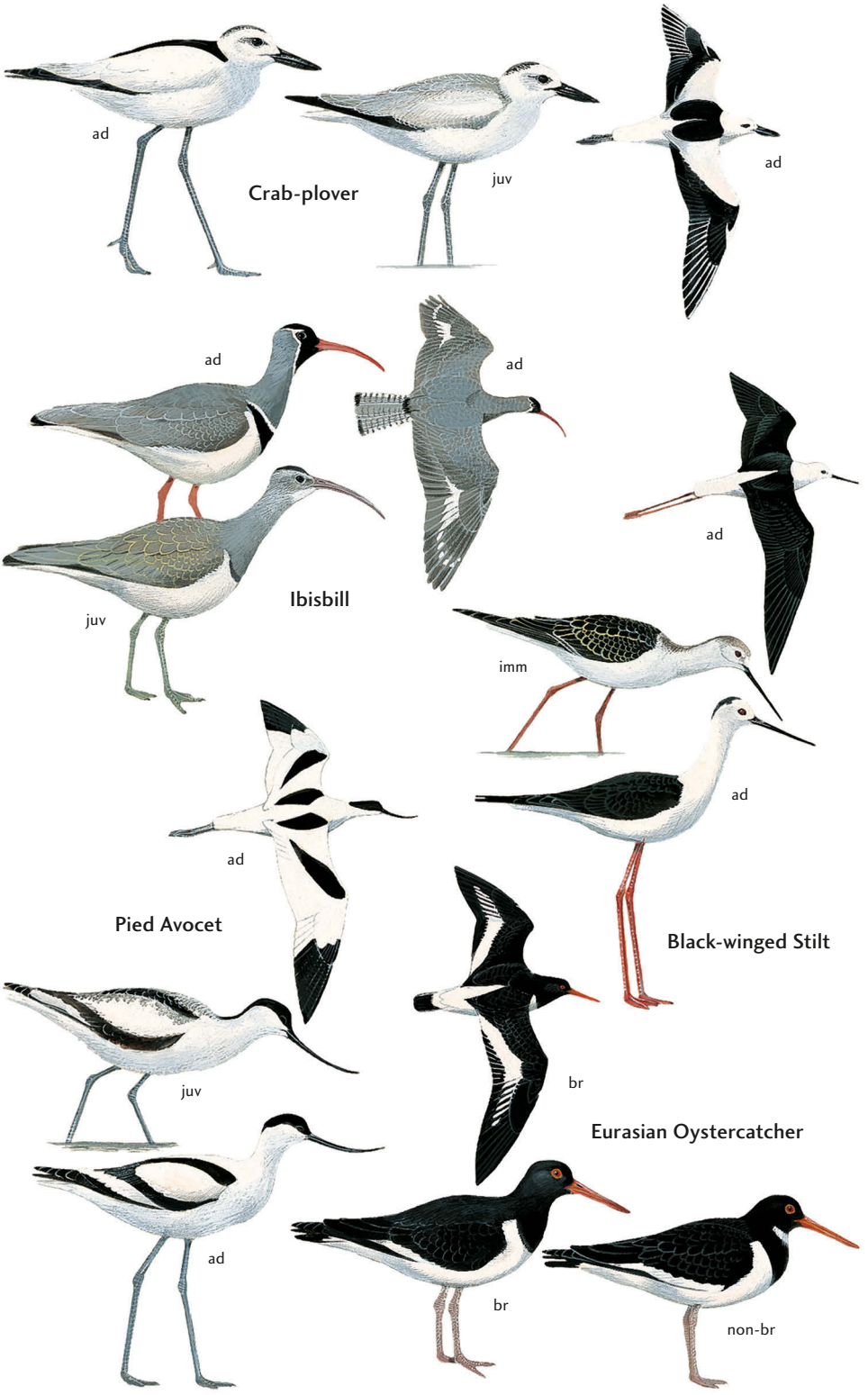
Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* 42–45 cm

Breeds in Pakistan and Kutch; widespread winter visitor and passage migrant. **ID** Upward kink to black bill. Distinctive black-and-white patterning. Juvenile has brown and buff mottling on mantle and scapulars. **Voice** A throaty *quib*... *quib*. **HH** Gregarious for most of the year; usually breeds in colonies. Characteristically feeds by sweeping bill and head from side to side in shallow water; also often swims and upends like a dabbling duck, and picks from the surface of water or mud. Eats small crustaceans, molluscs and insects. Favours shallow alkaline and brackish pools; also coastal wetlands.



Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus* 40–46 cm

Winter visitor to coasts. **ID** Black and white, with broad white wing-bar. Bill and eye reddish, and legs pinkish. White collar in non-breeding plumage. Shows broad white wing-bar in flight. **Voice** A piping *pi*... *peep*... *peep*... *peep* and *pi-peep*. **HH** Sandy and rocky coasts.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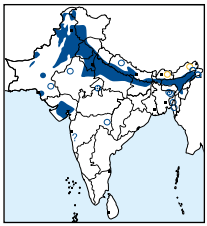
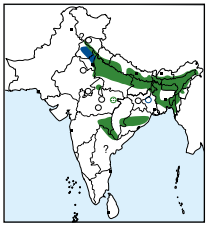


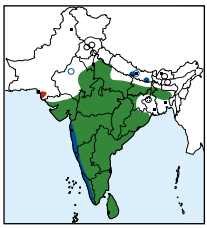
Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* 28–31 cm

Winter visitor to N subcontinent. **ID** Black crest, white (or buff) and black face pattern, black breast-band, and dark green upperparts. Juvenile has prominent buff fringes to mantle, scapulars and wing-coverts. Has very broad, rounded wing-tips. Shows whitish rump and blackish tail band in flight. **Voice** A mournful *eu-whit*. **HH** Found in pairs or small flocks. Feeding behaviour is similar to that of Red-wattled. Wet grassland, marshes, lake margins, shingle river banks; sometimes fallow fields and dry stubbles.



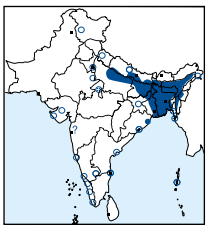
River Lapwing *Vanellus duvaucelii* 29–32 cm

Resident. N subcontinent; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Black crest, face and throat, grey sides to neck, and black bill and legs. Black patch on belly. In flight, shows broad white greater-covert wing-bar contrasting with black flight feathers, and black tail. Juvenile is similar to adult, but black of head is partly obscured by white tips, and has buff fringes and dark subterminal marks to feathers of upperparts. **Voice** A sharp insistent, high pitched *did, did, did*, sometimes ending with *did-did-do-weet*. **HH** Usually occurs singly, in pairs or in small groups. Feeding behaviour is similar to that of Red-wattled. Often has a hunched posture with head drawn in. Mainly sandbanks and shingle banks of rivers, also estuaries in Bangladesh.



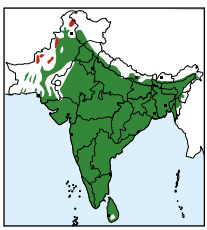
Yellow-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus malabaricus* 26–28 cm

Resident. Mainly in India. **ID** Yellow wattles and legs. White eye-stripe joining at nape, dark cap, and brown breast-band. In flight, shows white greater-covert wing-bar contrasting with black flight feathers, and white tail with black subterminal band. Juvenile has small and dull yellow wattles, white chin, brown cap, and prominent buff fringes and dark subterminal bars to feathers of upperparts. **Voice** A strident *chee-eet* and a hard *tit-tit-tit*. **HH** Keeps in pairs, and sometimes in small flocks in non-breeding season. Foraging behavior is similar to that of Red-wattled Lapwing. Flight is buoyant and with rather slow wing-beats. Dry stubbles, fallow fields, stony ground and open dry country.



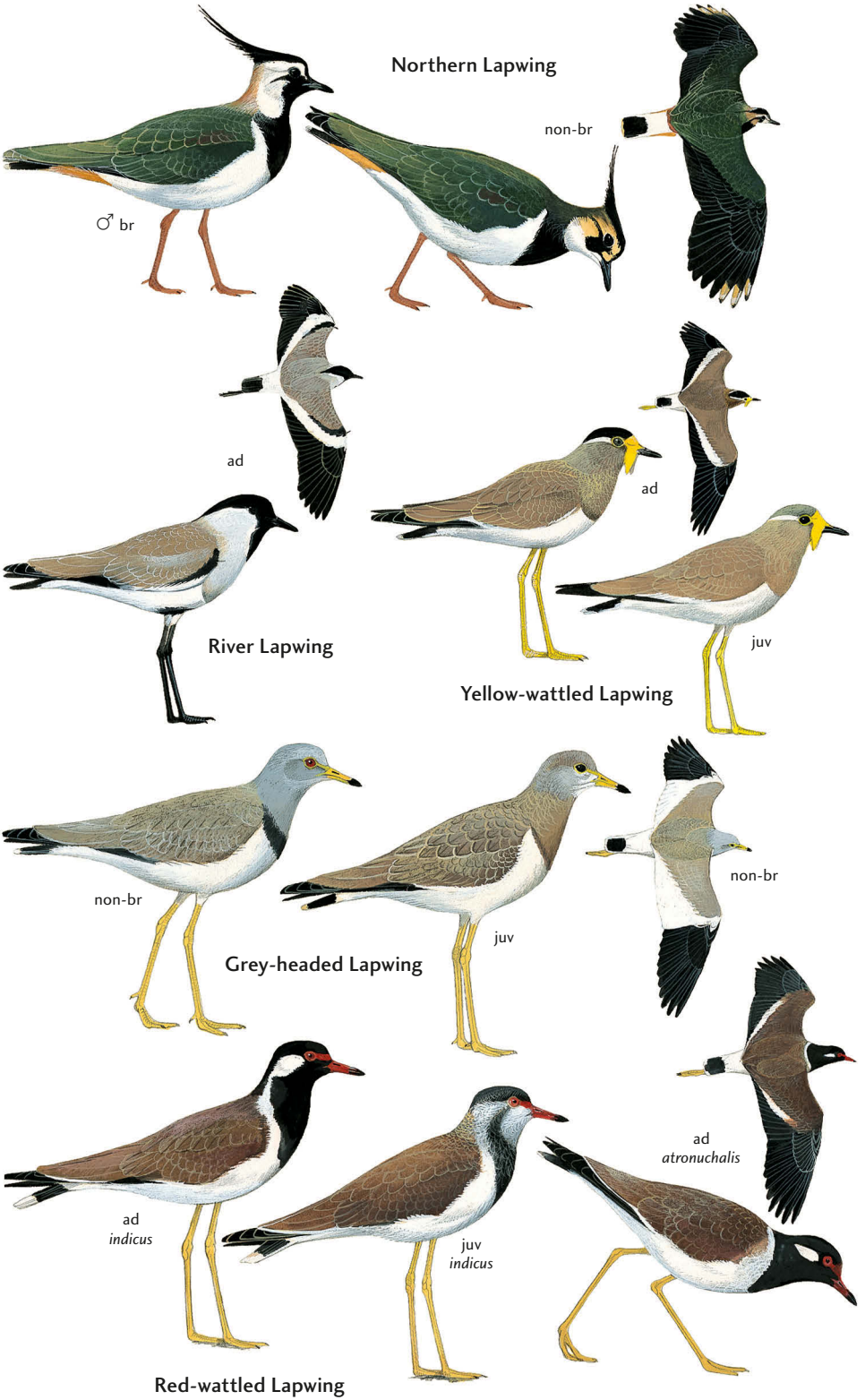
Grey-headed Lapwing *Vanellus cinereus* 34–37 cm

Winter visitor. Nepal, mainly NE India, and Bangladesh. **ID** Yellow bill with black tip, and yellow legs. Grey head, neck and breast, latter with diffuse black border, and black tail-band. Secondaries are white. Juvenile has brownish head and neck, lacks the dark breast-band, and has prominent buff fringes to feathers of upperparts. **Voice** A plaintive *chee-it, chee-it*. Usually found in small parties or flocks of up to 50 birds. **HH** Behaviour is similar to that of Red-wattled Lapwing, with which it often feeds. River banks, marshes and wet fields.



Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus* 32–35 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Black cap and breast, red bill with black tip, and yellow legs. In flight, shows white greater-covert wing-bar and black tail band. Juvenile is duller than adult, with whitish throat. *V. i. atronuchalis*, of E India, has black head, neck and breast, with white patch on ear-coverts and white collar. **Voice** An agitated and penetrating *did he do it, did he do it* and a less intrusive *did did did*. **HH** Keeps in pairs or small flocks of up to about 12 birds. A vigilant and noisy bird; when alarmed calls loudly and frantically while circling overhead. Forages by walking or running in short spurts, then stops and probes with body tilted forward; also vibrates its foot rapidly on surface to flush invertebrates. Feeds mainly at night and in early mornings and evenings. Usually flies slowly and with deep flaps. Open flat ground near water.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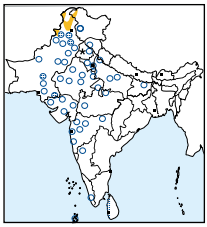
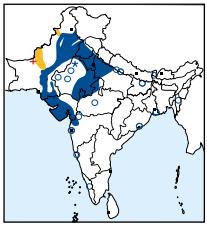


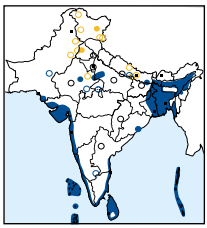
Sociable Lapwing *Vanellus gregarius* 27–30 cm

Winter visitor, now mainly to Pakistan and N and NW India. **ID** Dark cap, with white supercilia which join at nape. Black bill and legs. In flight, white secondaries contrast with black primaries and sandy-brown upperwing-coverts, and has black tail band. Adult breeding has yellow wash to sides of head, and black-and-maroon patch on belly. Non-breeding and juvenile have duller head pattern, white belly and streaked breast. Juvenile additionally has prominent buff fringes and dark subterminal crescents to scapulars and coverts. **HH** Feeding behavior is similar to that of Red-wattled. Dry fallow fields, stubbles and scrub desert. Globally threatened.



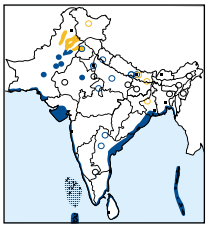
White-tailed Lapwing *Vanellus leucurus* 26–29 cm

Breeds in Baluchistan; winters in NW subcontinent. **ID** Blackish bill, large dark eyes, and very long yellow legs. Plain head. Tail all white, lacking black band of other *Vanellus* plovers. Juvenile has dark subterminal marks and pale fringes to feathers of upperparts, and paler neck and breast than adult; crown is mottled with dark brown. **Voice** Calls include a *pet-oo-wit* and *pee-wick* recalling Northern Lapwing. **HH** Usually feeds in shallow water, by pecking at the surface and by foot-dabbling; also probes on land. Freshwater marshes and marshy lake edges.



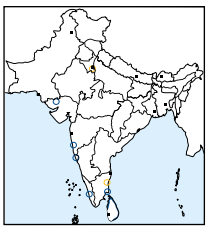
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* 23–26 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** In all plumages, told from Grey Plover by golden-yellow markings on upperparts, dusky grey underwing-coverts and axillaries, dark rump, and finer white wing-bar. Is also slimmer-bodied, with longer neck and small bulbous head, and bill is finer. Legs appear longer (owing to proportionately longer tibia). Adult breeding has black on face, foreneck, breast and belly which is strikingly bordered by white. Adult non-breeding and juvenile have yellowish-buff wash to supercilium, cheeks and neck; usually show pronounced supercilium which often curves down as diffuse crescent behind ear-coverts, and also a dark patch on rear ear-coverts. **Voice** An abrupt disyllabic *chi-vit* and a plaintive *tu-weep*. **HH** Very wary and if disturbed groups rise almost simultaneously in a compact flock, twisting and turning rapidly in unison. Mud banks of wetlands, ploughed fields and grassland.



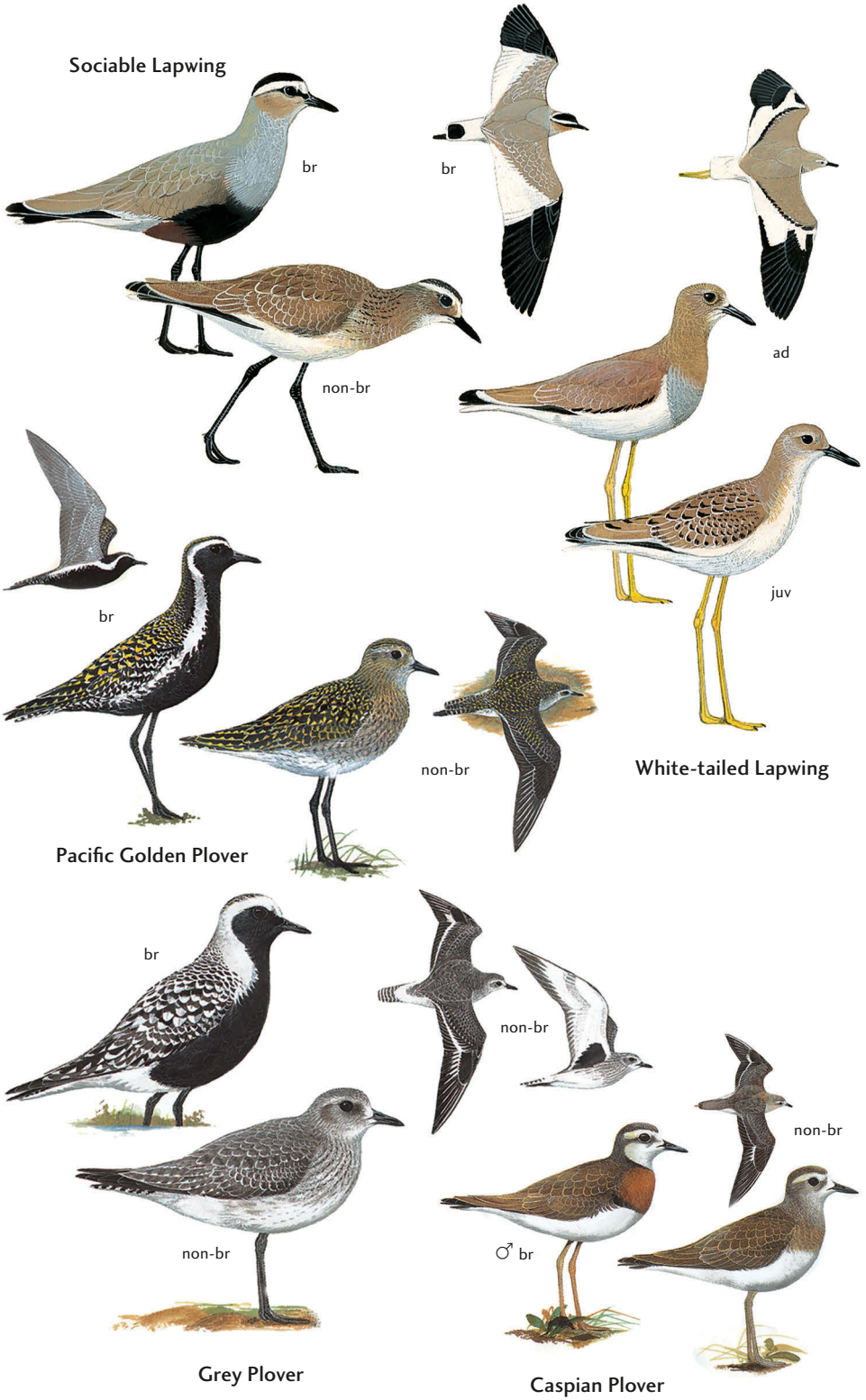
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola* 27–30 cm

Winter visitor, mainly to coasts. **ID** White underwing and black axillaries. Stockier, with stouter bill and shorter legs, than Pacific Golden. Whitish rump and prominent white wing-bar. Has extensive white spangling to upperparts in breeding plumage; upperparts mainly grey in non-breeding (in all plumages lacking golden spangling of Pacific Golden). **Voice** A mournful *chee-woo-ee*. **HH** Habits are similar to those of Pacific Golden, but usually less gregarious; often in pairs or small groups and with other wader species. Sandy shores, mudflats and tidal creeks.



Caspian Plover *Charadrius asiaticus* 18–20 cm

Winter visitor. India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID** Slim bill, slender appearance and complete breast-band. Supercilium more striking than in the sand plovers. Narrow white wing-bar, white underwing-coverts, and greenish or brownish legs best distinctions from Oriental Plover (see Appendix). Breeding male has chestnut breast-band with a black lower border. **Voice** Gives a loud, sharp *tyup*, a long rattling *tptptptptp,* a soft piping *tik,* and a shrill *kwhitt*. **HH** Mudflats and coast.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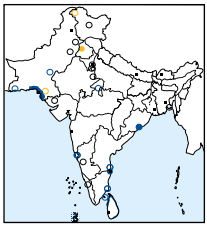
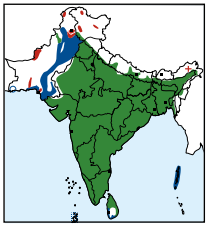


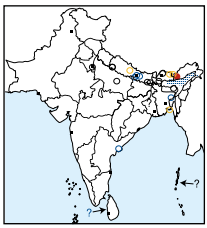
Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* 18–20 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Prominent breast-band and white hind collar. Larger and stockier than Little Ringed, with prominent wing-bar in flight. Adult breeding has orange legs and bill-base (legs duller in non-breeding, more olive-yellow in juvenile; bill mainly dark). Non-breeding and juvenile have prominent whitish supercilium and forehead compared with Little Ringed. **Voice** A soft *too-li* in flight; *tooee*; *too weep* when alarmed. **HH** Habits are similar to those of Little Ringed. Mud banks of freshwater and coastal wetlands.



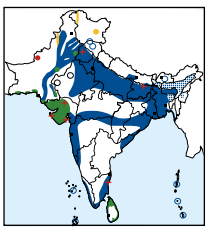
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* 14–17 cm

Widespread resident and winter visitor. **ID** Small, elongated and small-headed appearance, and uniform upperwing with only a very narrow wing-bar. Bill small and mainly dark. Legs yellowish or pinkish. Adult breeding has striking yellow eye-ring. Adult non-breeding and juvenile have more uniform head pattern than Common Ringed with buff forehead and supercilium. **Voice** Clear, descending *pee-oo* or shorter *peeu* in flight. **HH** Keeps in pairs or small flocks which scatter when feeding; often mixed with other waders. If disturbed, will rise in a compact flock and fly off rapidly, low over the ground, swerving in unison. Typical plover feeding action: makes short runs, then pauses and stoops stiffly to pick up small invertebrates. Freshwater and coastal wetlands.



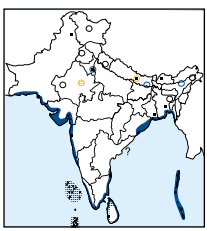
Long-billed Plover *Charadrius placidus* 19–21 cm

Breeds in W Arunachal Pradesh. Winter visitor, mainly to N subcontinent; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Like a large Little Ringed, but has longer tail with clearer dark subterminal bar, and more prominent white wing-bar; ear-coverts never black, and has less distinct eye-ring than Little Ringed. White forehead and supercilium more prominent in non-breeding compared with Little Ringed. Habits are similar to those of Little Ringed, but usually solitary. **Voice** A clear, penetrating *piwee* in flight. **HH** Shingle banks of large rivers.



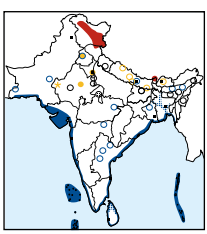
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* 15–17 cm

Breeds locally in Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Small size and stocky appearance. White hind collar and usually small, well-defined patches on sides of breast. Upperparts paler, more sandy, than Common Ringed. Legs usually appear blackish, but may be tinged brown or be olive-yellow. Male of widespread nominate has rufous cap and black eye-stripe and forecrown; male *seebohmi*, of Sri Lanka and S India, lacks these features, and often has whitish lores. **Voice** Flight call is a soft *pi... pi... pi*, or a rattling trill *prrr* or *prrtut* (harsher than Lesser Sand); and a plaintive *whoheet*. **HH** Typical plover gait and feeding behaviour (see Little Ringed), but runs about more rapidly. Sandy shores, banks of freshwater wetlands and saltpans.



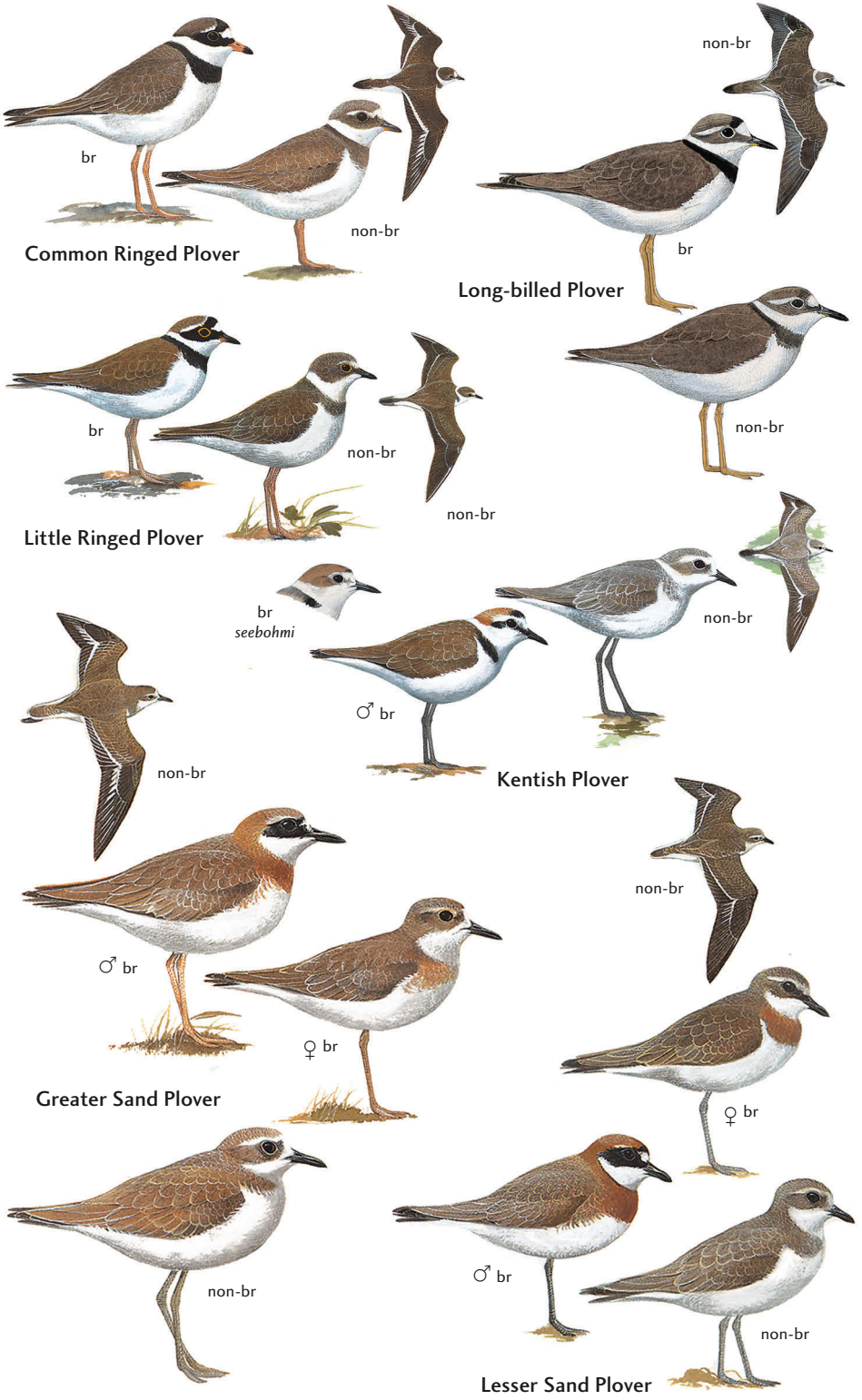
Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* 22–25 cm

Winter visitor to coasts. **ID** Larger and lankier than Lesser Sand, with longer and larger bill, usually with pronounced gonys and more pointed tip (longer than distance between bill base and rear of eye). Longer legs are paler, with distinct yellowish or greenish tinge. In flight, feet project noticeably beyond tail, has more pronounced dark subterminal band to tail, and has broader white wing-bar across primaries. **Voice** In flight a trilling *prrrirt* or *kyrrrr... trrr*, softer and longer than that of Lesser. **HH** Gait and feeding behaviour are typical of other plovers. Coastal wetlands.



Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* 19–21 cm

Breeds in N Himalayas, India; winters on coasts of subcontinent. **ID** Larger and longer-legged than Kentish, lacking white hind collar. Told from Greater Sand Plover by smaller and stouter bill (equal to or shorter than distance between bill base and rear of eye, with blunt tip), and shorter dark grey or dark greenish legs (with tibia shorter than tarsus). In flight, feet do not usually extend beyond tail and white wing-bar is narrower across primaries. Breeding male typically shows full black mask and forehead and more extensive rufous on breast compared with Greater (although variation in these characters). **Voice** A hard *chitik*, *chi-chi-chi,* and *kruit-kruit* in flight. **HH** Gait and feeding behaviour typical of plovers. Breeds on Tibetan plateau; winters on coastal wetlands.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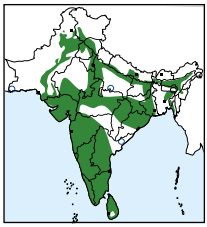
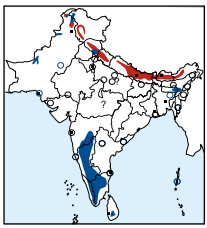


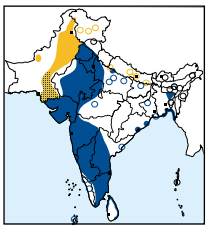
Greater Painted-snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* 25 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Rail-like wader, with broad, rounded wings and longish, downcurved bill. White or buff 'spectacles' and 'braces'. Adult female has maroon head and neck and dark greenish wing-coverts. Adult male and juvenile duller, and have buff spotting on wing-coverts; juvenile lacks dark breast band and throat and breast are finely streaked. **Voice** Occasionally an explosive *kek* when flushed; female has a soft *koh koh* in display. **HH** Found singly and in small flocks. Chiefly crepuscular or nocturnal. Skulking, and reluctant to fly if approached; rises heavily and with legs trailing and lands in cover again a short distance away. Feeds by probing in mud, or by sweeping bill from side to side in shallow water while bobbing rear body. Movements are slow and deliberate. Has roding display flight like Eurasian Woodcock. Freshwater marshes, vegetated pools; also mangroves in Bangladesh.



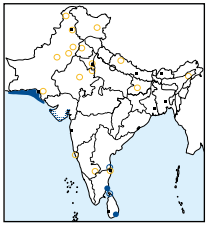
Eurasian Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* 33–35 cm

Breeds in Pakistan hills and Himalayas; winters in Himalayas, Indian hills and Sri Lanka. **ID** Bulky and rufous-brown in coloration with broad, rounded wings. Crown and nape banded black and buff; lacks sharply defined mantle and scapular stripes. **Voice** Usually silent when flushed. A sharp repeated *chiwich* in roding display. **HH** Solitary, nocturnal, passing the day in thick cover. When flushed flies without calling with wings making a swishing sound; zigzags with wavering wing movements and quickly drops into cover. Most easily located by the male's characteristic roding display flight in breeding season; at dawn and dusk he makes a regular circuit low over the treetops with slow, deliberate wing-beats while calling. Dense forest, also plantations in S India.



Ruff *Philomachus pugnax* M 26–32 cm, F 20–25 cm

Widespread winter visitor and passage migrant. **ID** Distinctive shape, with long neck, small head, short and slightly downcurved bill, and long yellowish or orangey legs. In all plumages, lacks prominent supercilium and, in flight, shows narrow white wing-bar and prominent white sides to uppertail-coverts. Male is considerably larger than female. Non-breeding and juvenile have neatly fringed upperparts, juvenile with buff underparts. Breeding birds typically have black and chestnut markings on upperparts, male with striking ruff. **Voice** Generally silent. **HH** Freshwater lakes, pools and marshes, flooded fields, grassland and intertidal mudflats.



Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* 18–19 cm

Winter visitor, mainly in offshore waters of Pakistan, NW and SE India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Typically seen swimming. More delicately built than Grey Phalarope (see Appendix), with finer bill. Adult breeding has white throat and red stripe down side of grey neck. Adult non-breeding has prominent black mask and cap, with dark line running down hind neck; has darker grey upperparts than Grey, with white edges to mantle and scapular feathers, forming fairly distinct lines. Juvenile has dark grey upperparts with orange-buff mantle and scapular lines. **Voice** Utters a single *twick,* lower-pitched than call of Grey. **HH** Swims buoyantly, spins around, darts erratically here and there. Winters at sea; on migration also on saltpans and shallow pools and lakes inland.

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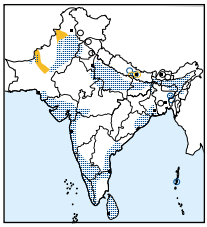
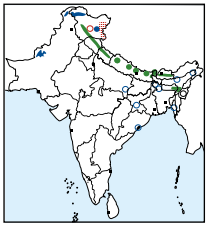


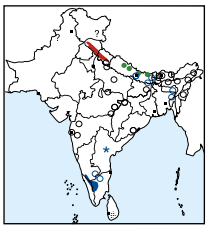
Jack Snipe *Lymnocryptes minimus* 17–19 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Small, with short bill. Flight weaker and slower than that of Common Snipe, with rounded wing-tips. Has divided supercilium but lacks pale crown-stripe. Mantle and scapular stripes very prominent. **Voice** Invariably silent when flushed. **HH** When feeding, seems to bob body constantly. Usually crepuscular and nocturnal. Marshes and wet paddy stubbles.



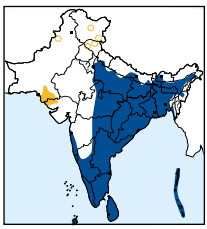
Solitary Snipe *Gallinago solitaria* 29–31 cm

Resident and winter visitor. Baluchistan, Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Large, dull-coloured snipe with long bill. Compared with Wood Snipe is colder-coloured and less boldly marked, with less striking head pattern and narrower white mantle and scapular stripes. Further, has gingery-brown breast finely spotted and barred with white, and rufous barring on mantle and scapulars. Wings longer and narrower than in Wood. Legs yellowish (contra plate). **Voice** If flushed, zigzags away, flying more heavily and slowly than Common and gives a harsh *kensh,* deeper than Common's. In aerial display utters a deep *chok-achock-a* call, combined with a mechanical bleating produced by outer tail feathers. **HH** High-altitude marshes and streams.



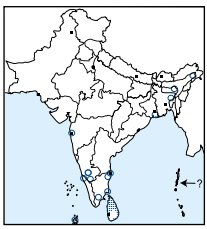
Wood Snipe *Gallinago nemoricola* 28–32 cm

Breeds in Himalayas and NE India; winters in Himalayas, S Indian hills and Sri Lanka. **ID** Large, with heavy and direct flight and broad wings. Bill relatively short and broad-based. More boldly marked than Solitary, with buff and blackish head stripes, broad buff stripes on blackish mantle and scapulars (white stripes in juvenile), and warm buff neck and breast with brown streaking. Legs greenish. **Voice** A long series of nasal notes from ground, *check-check-check* on breeding area. **HH** Has a slow, heavy, wavering flight and soon settles after being flushed. Breeds in alpine meadows and dwarf scrub; winters in forest marshes. Globally threatened.



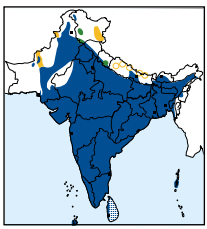
Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura* 25–27 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Compared with Common, has more rounded wings, and slower and more direct flight. Lacks well-defined white trailing edge to secondaries, and has densely barred underwing-coverts and pale upperwing-covert panel. Feet project beyond tail in flight. At rest, shows little or no tail projection beyond wings. Usually shows bulging supercilium in front of eye, with little contrast between buff supercilium and cheeks, and eye-stripe often narrow in front of eye and poorly defined behind. Width and colour of edges to lower large scapulars similar on inner and outer webs, creating scalloped appearance. **Voice** If flushed gives a short, rasping *tetch,* deeper than Common. **HH** Flushes with little or no zigzagging; usually drops into cover more quickly than Common. Marshes, damp paddy-fields; sometimes dry ground.



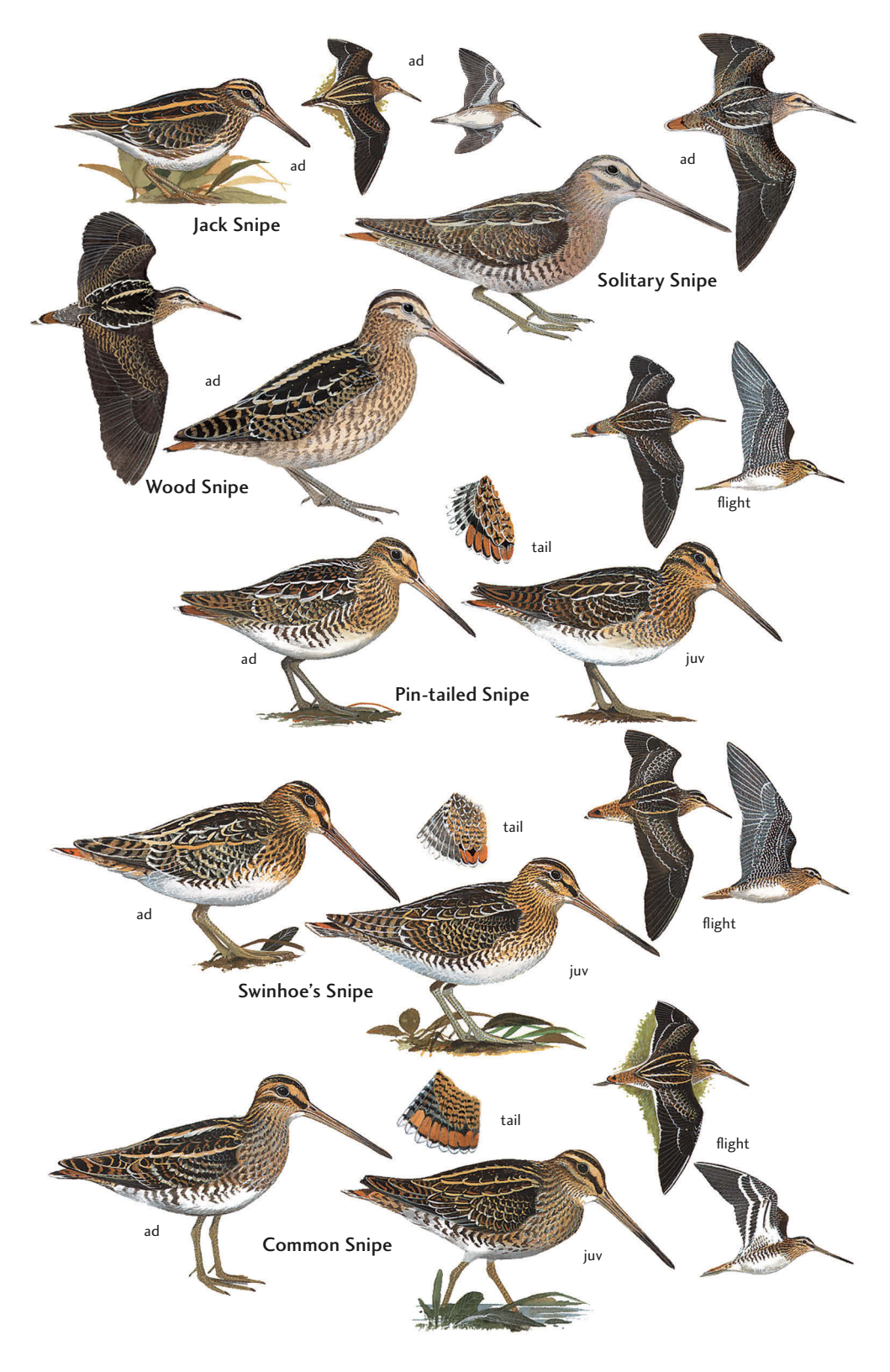
Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala* 25–27 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly NE subcontinent and S India. **ID** Almost identical to Pin-tailed. In flight, is heavier, with longer bill and more pointed wings, and feet only just project beyond tail. At rest, tail extends noticeably beyond folded wings. Some birds in spring can appear quite dusky on sides of head, neck, breast and flanks (and are distinct from Pin-tailed), but plumage often as Pin-tailed. **Voice** Can be silent when flushed. Call similar in pitch to Pin-tailed's, but thinner. **HH** Habits and habitat very similar to Pin-tailed's.



Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* 25–27 cm

Breeds in NW Himalayas; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Compared with Pin-tailed, wings more pointed, faster and more erratic flight. In flight, shows prominent white trailing edge to wing, white banding on underwing-coverts, and more extensive white belly patch. At rest, shows noticeable projection of tail beyond wings, poorly defined median-covert panel, buff supercilium contrasts with white cheek-stripe, and broad buff edges to outer webs of lower scapulars contrast with narrower, browner inner webs. **Voice** If flushed, gives an anxious, rising, grating *scaaap*. **HH** When flushed rises steeply with rapid zigzagging, circles high up and lands some distance away. Male has a drumming display in the breeding season. Marshes and paddy stubbles.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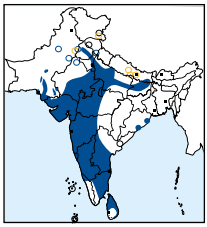
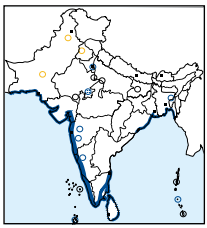


Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa* 36–44 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** White wing-bars and white rump with black tail band. At rest, appears lankier with longer neck, legs and bill compared with Bar-tailed Godwit. In breeding plumage, has blackish barring on red underparts and white belly; mantle and scapulars more unevenly patterned than Bar-tailed; female larger and duller than male. In non-breeding plumage, is more uniform on upperparts and breast than Bar-tailed. Juvenile has cinnamon underparts and cinnamon fringes to dark-centred upperparts. **Voice** Utters a yapping *kek-kek* in flight. **HH** Feeds mainly by walking slowly and probing in open mud or shallows. Mainly shallows and mud banks of fresh waters. **AN** Western Black-tailed Godwit if eastern form is split.

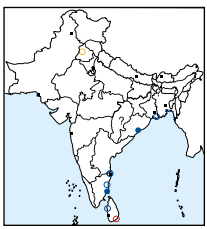
Eastern Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa* (*limosa*) *melanuroides* 34 cm

Winter visitor and passage migrant to NE subcontinent. **ID** Smaller and with shorter bill than 'Western' Black-tailed (more similar to Bar-tailed), with narrower wing-bar in flight. Male in breeding plumage has deeper and more extensive red on underparts with narrower barring extending to vent. Breeding plumage female similar to male but duller (showing less sexual dimorphism than 'Western'). Non-breeding plumage is darker grey on head, neck and breast than 'Western'. Juvenile is paler, less cinnamon on underparts than 'Western', with narrower cinnamon fringes above, barring on flanks, and notched golden and dark scapulars and tertial edgings. **Voice** Similar to 'Western'. **HH** Habits similar to 'Western'. Winters mainly on coast; inland on passage.



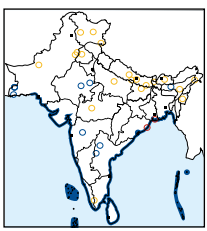
Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* 37–41 cm

Widespread winter visitor, mainly to coasts. **ID** Lacks wing-bar, has barred tail and white V on back. At rest, stockier than Black-tailed, with shorter legs, and shorter, more upturned bill. Breeding male has chestnut-red head, neck and underparts; mantle and scapulars are more uniformly streaked than Black-tailed. Breeding female has pale chestnut underparts, although many as non-breeding. Non-breeding has dark streaking on breast and streaked appearance to upperparts. Juvenile similar to non-breeding, but with buff wash to underparts and buff edges to mantle/scapulars. **Voice** Gives a barking *kak-kak* and deep *kirruc*. **HH** Habits similar to Black-tailed but often feeds in shallower water. Estuaries, lagoons and saltpans.



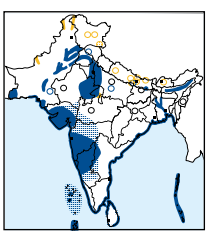
Asian Dowitcher *Limnodromus semipalmatus* 34–36 cm

Winter visitor to coasts of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** From Bar-tailed Godwit by straight, broad-based all-black bill, with swollen tip; also by smaller size and stouter appearance, and square-shaped head with steeply rising forehead. Has distinctive 'sewing-machine' feeding action. In flight, shows diffuse pale wing-bar, greyish tail, and dark markings on lower back and rump. Underparts brick-red in breeding plumage, with chestnut fringes to dark feathers of mantle and scapulars. Upperparts and underparts heavily streaked in non-breeding plumage. Juvenile has buff fringes to upperparts and wash to breast. **Voice** Gives a yelping *chep-chep* or *chowp* and a soft moaning *kiaow*. **HH** Intertidal mudflats and mud banks.



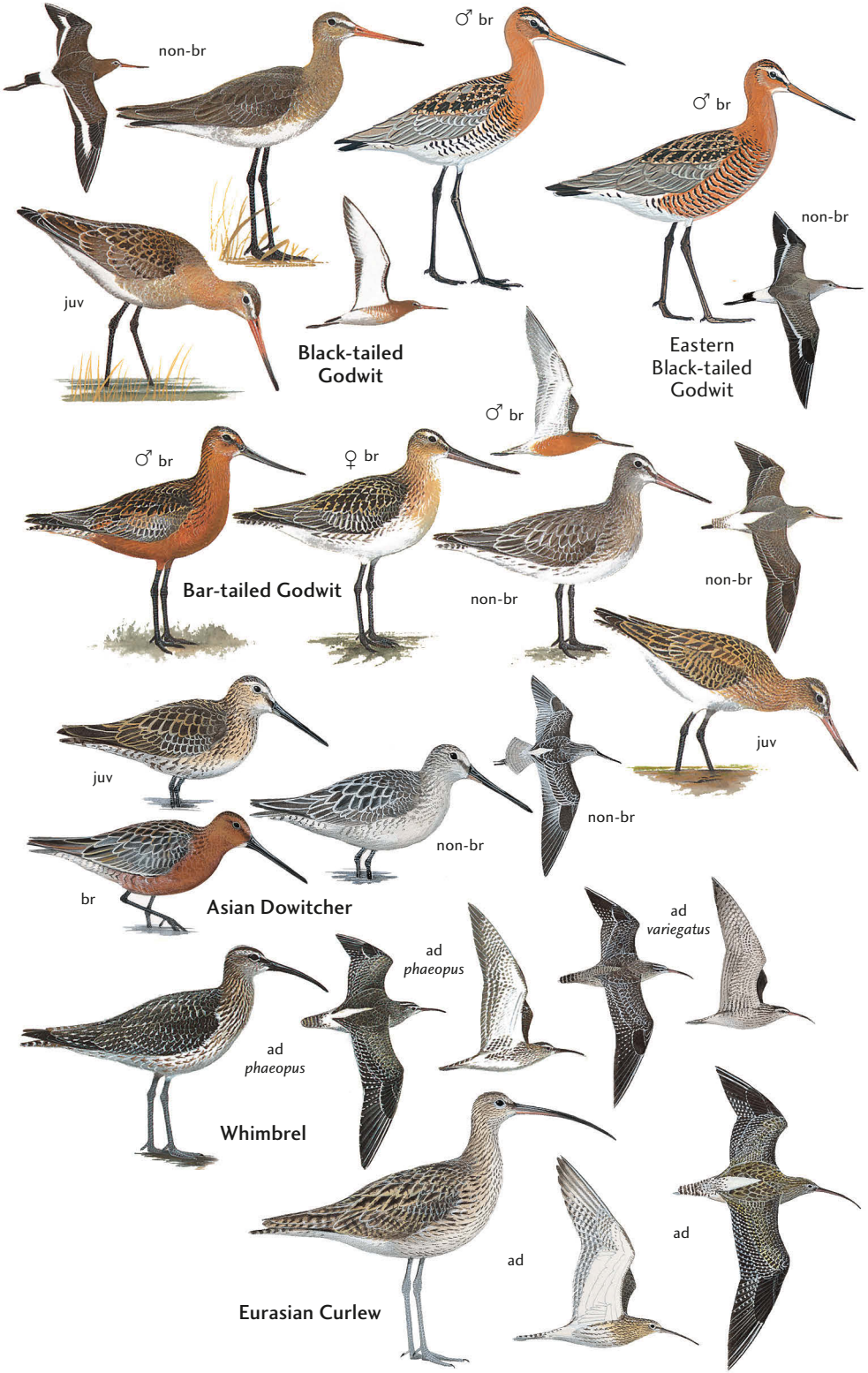
Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* 40–46 cm

Widespread winter visitor, mainly to coasts. **ID** Smaller than Eurasian Curlew, with shorter bill, often with more marked downward kink. Has prominent whitish supercilium and crown-stripe, contrasting with blackish eye-stripe and sides to crown, resulting in more striking head pattern. Juvenile as adult. Eastern *variegatus* (winters in NE) has back and rump, as well as underwing, marked heavily with brown (nominate has white back V and whiter underwing). **Voice** Flight call distinctive, *he-he-he-he-he-he-he*, flat-toned and laughter-like. **HH** Feeds chiefly by picking from surface of open mud, also by probing. Mainly estuaries, tidal creeks and mangroves; on all coasts in Sri Lanka.



Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* 50–60 cm

Widespread winter visitor, mainly to coasts. **ID** From Whimbrel by larger size, much longer bill, more uniform head pattern. Juvenile has shorter bill. **Voice** Has distinctive mournful rising *cur-lew* call and an anxious *were-up* when alarmed. Its song, a sequence of bubbling phrases, accelerating and rising in pitch is often heard in winter and on passage. **HH** Feeds chiefly by probing deeply in mud. Mainly estuaries, tidal creeks and mangroves; uncommonly on large rivers and inland lakes.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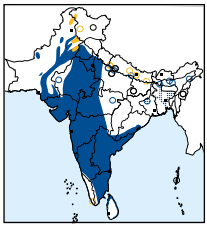
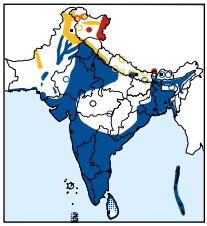


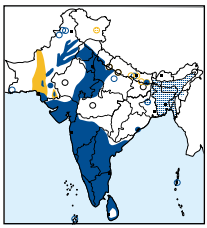
Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* 29–32 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Red at base of bill, and red legs. Longer bill and legs than Common Redshank, lacking broad white trailing edge to wing. Non-breeding plumage is paler grey above and whiter below than Common with more prominent white supercilium. Underparts black in breeding plumage. In first-summer plumage has dark barring on underparts and dark-mottled upperparts; legs can be black. Juvenile similar to non-breeding adult, but has darker grey upperparts more heavily spotted with white, and underparts are finely barred with grey. **Voice** A distinctive *tu-ick* in flight and a shorter *chip* alarm call. **HH** Mainly fresh waters, also coastal waters.



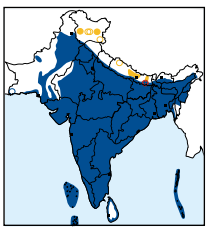
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* 27–29 cm

Breeds in NW Himalayas; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Orange-red at base of bill, orange-red legs, and broad white trailing edge to wing. Non-breeding plumage is grey-brown above, with grey breast. Neck and underparts heavily streaked in breeding plumage; upperparts with variable dark brown and cinnamon markings. Juvenile quite different from juvenile Spotted, with brown upperparts entirely fringed and spotted with buff, underparts heavily streaked with dark brown, and dull orange legs and base to bill. **Voice** Very noisy. Typically an anxious *teu-hu-hu* flight call and a mournful *tyuuu* on the ground. **HH** Fresh and coastal waters.



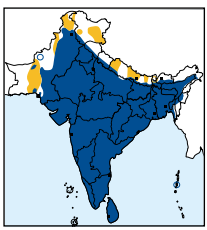
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* 22–25 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Smaller and daintier than Common Greenshank, with proportionately longer legs and finer bill. Legs greenish or yellowish. Upperparts are grey and foreneck and underparts white in non-breeding plumage, when the pale lores, forehead and chin create a pale-faced appearance. In breeding plumage, foreneck and breast streaked and upperparts blotched and barred. Juvenile upperparts appear streaked blackish, with feathers notched and fringed with buff, and head sides, hind neck and upper mantle are streaked dark grey and white. **Voice** Utters an abrupt, dull *yup* flight call; also rapid, excitable series of *kiu-kiu-kiu* notes. **HH** Mainly freshwater wetlands.



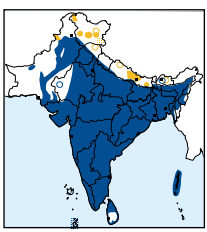
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* 30–34 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Stocky, with long, stout (and slightly up-turned) bill and long, stout greenish legs. Upperparts grey and foreneck and underparts white in non-breeding plumage. In breeding plumage, foreneck and breast streaked, upperparts untidily streaked. Juvenile has dark-streaked upperparts with fine buff or whitish fringes. See Appendix for account for similar Nordmann's Greenshank. **Voice** Loud, ringing *tu-tu-tu* flight call; sometimes a throatier *kyoup-kyoup-kyoup*. **HH** Wide range of fresh and salt water wetlands.



Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* 21–24 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** From Wood Sandpiper by shorter greenish legs and stockier appearance, darker and less heavily spotted upperparts, and supercilium indistinct or absent behind eye. In flight, shows very dark underwing, strongly contrasting with white belly and vent, and striking white rump is distinctive. Adult breeding has white streaking on crown and neck, heavily streaked breast, and prominent whitish spotting on upperparts. Adult non-breeding is more uniform on head and breast, and is less distinctly spotted on upperparts. Juvenile has browner upperparts with buff spotting. **Voice** Ringing *tluee-tueet* and *tuee-weet-weet* calls. **HH** Mainly freshwater wetlands.



Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* 18–21 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** From Green by longer, yellowish legs and slimmer appearance, heavily speckled upperparts, and prominent supercilium behind eye; in flight by call, slimmer body and narrower wings, toes projecting clearly beyond tail, paler underwing contrasting less with white underparts, and paler brown upperparts contrasting less with smaller white rump. Adult breeding has heavily streaked breast and barred flanks; upperparts barred and spotted pale grey-brown and white. Adult non-breeding has more uniform grey-brown upperparts, spotted whitish, and breast brownish and lightly streaked. Juvenile has warm brown upperparts speckled warm buff, and lightly streaked buff breast. **Voice** Soft *chiff-if* or *chiff-if-if* flight call. **HH** Freshwater and coastal wetlands.

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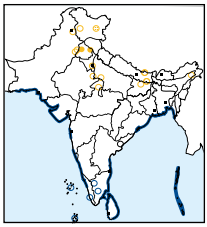
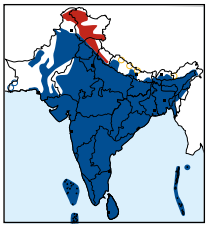


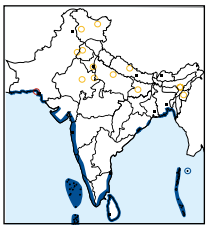
Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* 22–25 cm

Widespread winter visitor, mainly to coasts, also inland. **ID** Longish, upturned bill and short yellowish legs. In flight, shows prominent white trailing edge to secondaries and grey rump and tail. Adult breeding has blackish scapular lines. Juvenile is similar to adult breeding, but has buff fringes and dark subterminal marks to feathers of upperparts. **Voice** Flight call is a soft pleasant whistle *hu-hu-hu* and a sharper *twit-wit-wit-wit* recalling Common. **HH** A very active feeder, running here and there erratically to chase prey; also probes deeply, and sometimes feeds in shallow water. Solitary or in scattered groups when feeding; often gathers in small flocks to roost. Mainly coastal wetlands.



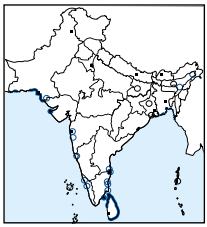
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* 19–21 cm

Breeds in NW Himalayas; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Horizontal stance, long tail projecting well beyond closed wings and constant bobbing action. White wing-bar and brown rump and centre of tail in flight, with distinctive rapid shallow wing beats and bowed-wing glides. In breeding plumage, has irregular dark streaking and barring on upperparts, lacking in non-breeding. Juvenile has buff fringes and dark subterminal crescents to upperparts. **Voice** Call is an anxious *wee-wee-wee* when flushed or alarmed. **HH** Characteristically rocks rear end of body and bobs head constantly when feeding. Runs along the water's edge and picks prey from ground or vegetation. Flies low over the water, with rapid, shallow wing-beats alternating with brief glides on stiff downcurved wings. Invariably solitary in non-breeding season. Breeds by mountain streams and rivers; winters at fresh water and coastal wetlands.



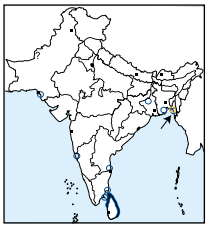
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* 23 cm

Widespread winter visitor to coasts. **ID** Short bill and orange legs. In flight, shows white stripes on wings and back and black tail band. In breeding plumage, has complex black-and-white neck and breast pattern and much chestnut-red on upperparts; duller and less strikingly patterned in non-breeding plumage. Juvenile has buff fringes to upperparts, and blackish breast. **Voice** Utters a rolled *trik-tuk-tuk-tuk* or *tuk-er-tuk*; a sharp *chick-ik* or *kuu* when flushed. **HH** Runs actively on the shore, turning over pebbles and shells to catch small invertebrate prey sheltering beneath; also probes into soft sand and pokes into rock crevices and among detritus at the high-water mark in search of food. Flight is strong and direct, usually low over the shore. Often feeds in small parties. Rocky coasts; also occurs on tidal mudflats and sandy shores in Pakistan and Gulf of Kutch.



Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* 26–28 cm

Winter visitor, chiefly to coasts. **ID** Larger than Red Knot, and often with slightly downcurved bill. Also is less neatly proportioned, with head looking proportionately smaller and neck and body longer, at times recalling Ruff. At rest, closed wings extend beyond tail, while in flight shows more clearly defined white rump contrasting with grey tail. Adult breeding heavily marked with black on breast and flanks, with chestnut patterning to scapulars. Adult non-breeding typically more heavily streaked on upperparts and breast than Red Knot. Juvenile has darker centres and contrasting white fringes to feathers of mantle, scapulars and wing-coverts, and more heavily marked breast, compared with juvenile Red Knot. **Voice** Makes a low disyllabic *nyut nyut*. **HH** Usually found in small parties, often with godwits and other waders. Feeds slowly, chiefly by probing deeply into mud or sand. Flight is strong and direct. Intertidal flats and tidal creeks. Globally threatened.



Red Knot *Calidris canutus* 23–25 cm

Winter visitor, chiefly to coasts. **ID** Stocky, with short, straight bill. Adult breeding is brick-red on underparts. Adult non-breeding whitish on underparts and uniform grey on upperparts. Juvenile has buff fringes and dark subterminal crescents to upperparts and buff wash on breast and flanks. **Voice** Utters a low short *knutt*... *knutt*; often silent. **HH** Highly gregarious in the non-breeding season. Feeds chiefly by probing in soft mud and picking from surface. Mainly intertidal mudflats.

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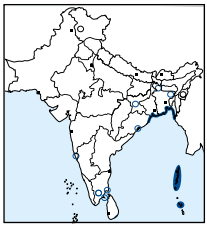
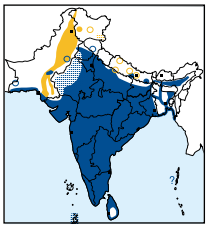


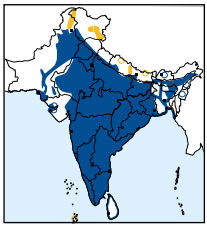
Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* 13–16 cm

Winter visitor. India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Very similar to Little Stint; very subtle structural differences include stouter, deeper-tipped bill, shorter legs, and longer wings which give rise to more elongated appearance. Adult non-breeding is almost identical to Little, but is cleaner and paler grey above, with clearer and less extensive dark centres to mantle and scapulars, and markings on sides of breast are more clearly defined. Adult breeding typically has unstreaked rufous-orange throat, foreneck and upper breast, white sides of lower breast with dark streaking, and greyish-centred tertials and wing-coverts (with greyish-white fringes). Juvenile lacks or has indistinct mantle V; has different coloration and patterning to lower scapulars (grey with dark subterminal marks with whitish or buffish fringes; typically blackish with rufous fringes in Little), and grey-centred, whitish- or buffish-edged tertials (usually blackish with rufous edges in Little); supercilium does not usually split in front of eye. **Voice** Call is a high-pitched rasping *chriit*. **HH** Habits very similar to Little's. Mainly coastal.



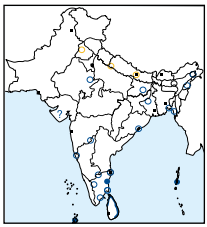
Little Stint *Calidris minuta* 13–15 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** More rotund and upright than Temminck's, with dark legs. In flight, shows grey sides to tail. Adult breeding has pale mantle V, rufous wash to face, neck sides and breast, and rufous fringes to upperpart feathers. Non-breeding has untidy, mottled/streaked appearance (Temminck's more uniform), with grey breast sides. Juvenile has whitish mantle V, greyish nape, prominent white supercilium which typically splits above eye (not shown in plate), and rufous fringes to upperparts. **Voice** Flight call is a weak *pi, pi, pi*. **HH** An active wader, rapidly picks at the surface, and frequently darts about to catch very tiny prey items. Mudflats, coastal lagoons, tidal creeks, marshes, paddy-fields and lakes.



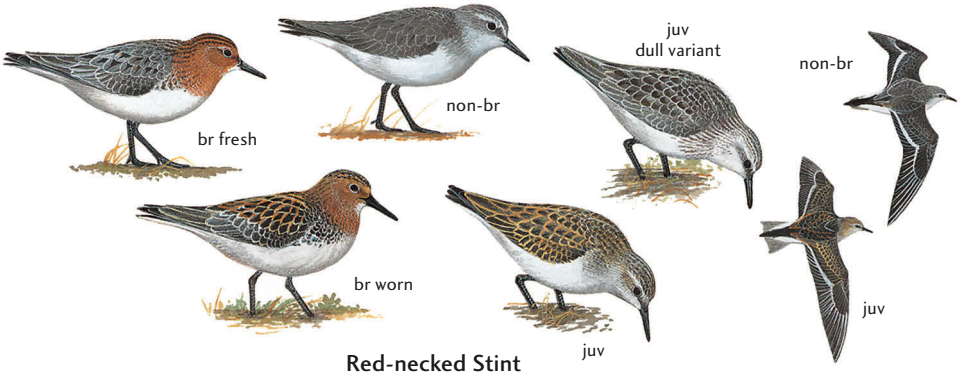
Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii* 13–15 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** More elongated than Little, and with more horizontal stance, with tail extending noticeably beyond closed wings at rest. In flight, shows white sides to tail. Legs yellowish. In all plumages, lacks mantle V and is usually rather uniform, with complete breast-band and indistinct supercilium. Adult breeding has irregular dark markings on upperparts and juvenile regular buff fringes (patterning very different from Little). **Voice** Utters a trilling, cicada-like *trrrrrit*. **HH** Unobtrusive. Forages more among vegetation at wetland edges than other stints. Favours vegetated freshwater habitats; also on brackish marshes, mudflats and tidal lagoons.

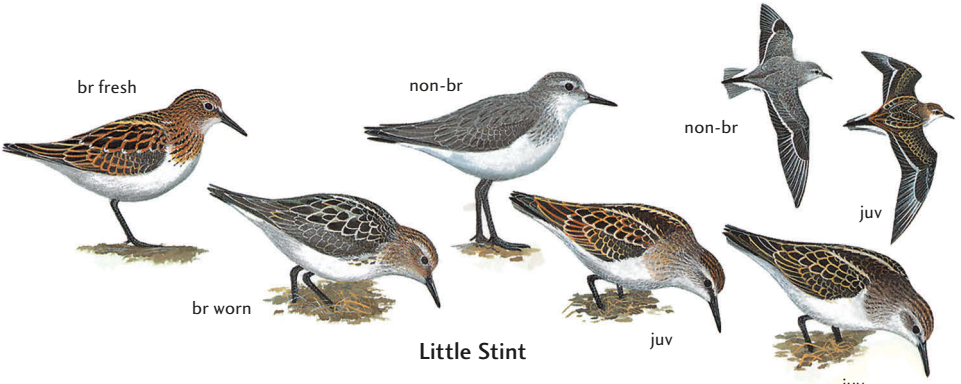


Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* 13–15 cm

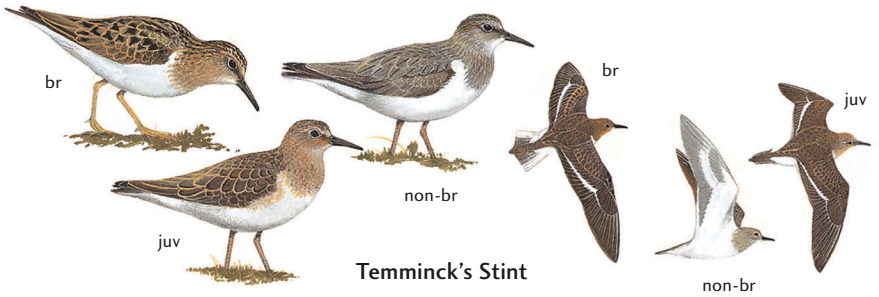
Winter visitor. Mainly E subcontinent. **ID** Long and yellowish legs, longish neck, and upright stance recall miniature Wood Sandpiper. In all plumages, has prominent supercilium and heavily streaked foreneck and breast. Adult breeding and juvenile have prominent rufous fringes to upperparts, and rufous crown; juvenile has very striking mantle V. In winter, upperparts more heavily marked than Little's. **Voice** Call is a soft *prit* or *chirrup*, similar to but less purring than that of Curlew Sandpiper. **HH** Often feeds with other stints; runs about energetically to pick up tiny invertebrates. Freshwater and brackish marshes, lakes, river banks and intertidal mudflats.



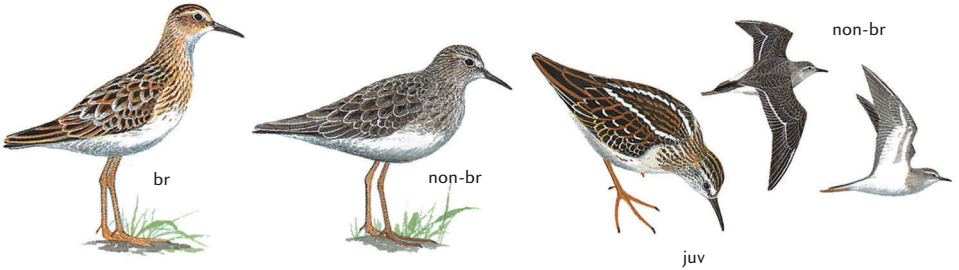
Red-necked Stint



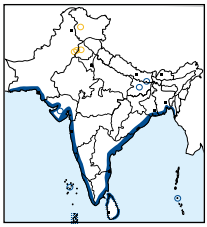
Little Stint



Temminck's Stint

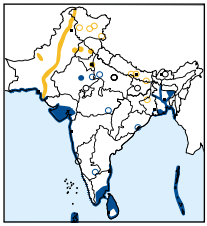


Long-toed Stint



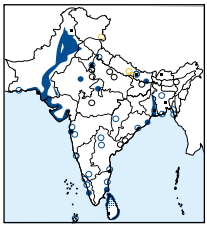
Sanderling *Calidris alba* 20 cm

Winter visitor, mainly to coasts. **ID** Stocky, with short bill. Very broad white wing-bar. Adult breeding variable in appearance; initially mottled grey and black, head and breast become more rufous with wear. Rufous birds possibly confusable with Little and Red-necked Stints, but Sanderling is considerably larger, with broader wing-bar, has rufous centres to scapulars and coverts, and lacks hind toe. Sides of head are distinctly streaked compared with Red-necked. Non-breeding is pale grey above and very white below. Has blackish lesser wing-coverts, which are especially noticeable in flight but also show at rest as black patch at bend of wing (unless concealed by breast feathers). Juvenile chequered black-and-white above and buff wash to streaked sides of breast. **Voice** Call is a liquid *plit*. **HH** Extremely active; runs swiftly after retreating waves, stopping suddenly to catch minute prey or probe in sands. Forages in small parties on shoreline of sandy beaches.



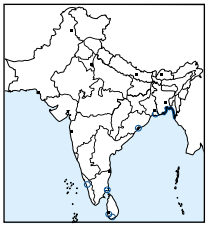
Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea* 18–23 cm

Winter visitor, mainly to coasts, also inland. **ID** White rump. More elegant than Dunlin, and with longer, more downcurved bill, and longer legs. Adult breeding has chestnut-red head and underparts. Adult non-breeding paler grey than Dunlin, with more distinct supercilium. Juvenile has strong supercilium, buff wash to breast, and buff fringes to upperparts. **Voice** Flight call is a low, purring *prrriit*. **HH** Feeds in wet sand in similar way to Dunlin, also by wading in deeper water. Mainly coastal: intertidal mudflats, seashore, saltpans; rare inland.



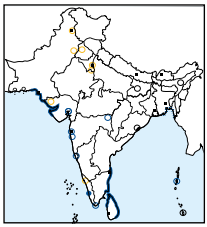
Dunlin *Calidris alpina* 16–22 cm

Winter visitor, mainly to coasts, also inland. **ID** Shorter legs and bill compared with Curlew Sandpiper, and with dark centre to rump. Adult breeding has black belly. Adult non-breeding darker grey-brown than Curlew Sandpiper, with less distinct supercilium. Juvenile has streaked belly, rufous fringes to mantle and scapulars, and buff mantle V. **Voice** Flight call is a distinctive slurred *screet*. **HH** Makes short runs over wet mud and wades near water's edge. Intertidal mudflats, seashore, tidal creeks, river banks, sand bars and flooded fields.



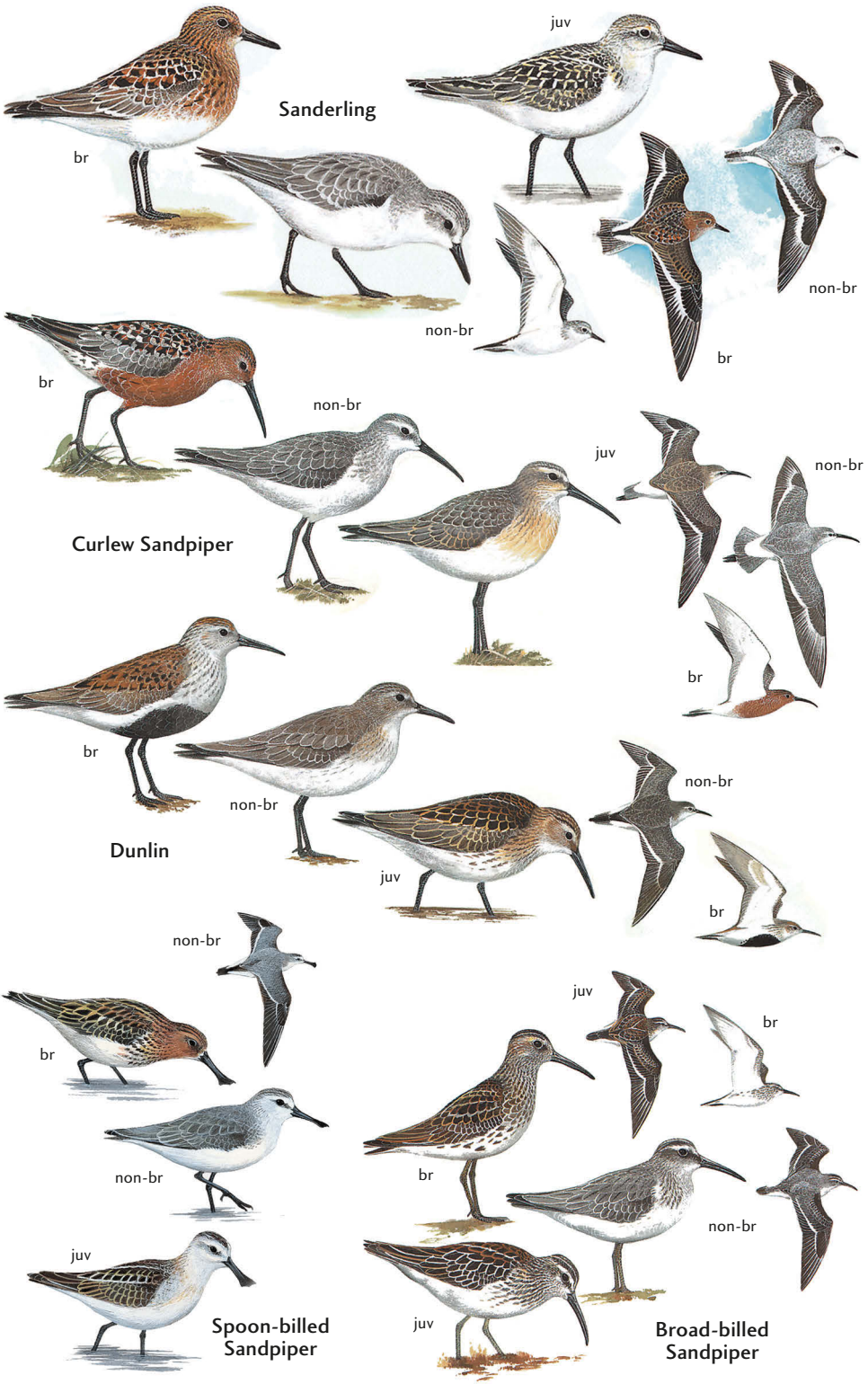
Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus* 14–16 cm

Winter visitor. India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Stint-sized. Spatulate tip to bill (although bill shape can be difficult to see side-on). Adult non-breeding has paler grey upperparts than Little Stint, with more pronounced white supercilium, forehead and cheeks; underparts appear cleaner and whiter. Adult breeding more uniform rufous-orange on face and breast compared with Little (recalling Red-necked). Juvenile very similar to Little Stint, but shows more white on face and darker eye-stripe and ear-coverts (masked appearance). **Voice** Flight call is a quiet, rolled *preep*, or a shrill *wheet*. **HH** Feeds mostly by sweeping bill from side to side in shallow water, while walking along. Intertidal mudflats. Globally threatened. **TN** Formerly placed in *Calidris*.



Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* 16–18 cm

Winter visitor to coasts. **ID** Distinctive shape: stockier than Dunlin with legs set well back and downward-kinked bill. In all plumages, has more prominent supercilium than Dunlin, with 'split' before eye, and contrasting with dark eye-stripe. Adult breeding has bold streaking on neck and breast contrasting with white belly, and rufous-fringed mantle and scapular feathers with whitish mantle and scapular lines. Birds in worn breeding plumage can appear uniformly very dark on upperparts. Non-breeding has dark patch at bend of wing (sometimes obscured by breast feathers) and strong streaking on breast; dark inner wing-coverts show as dark leading edge to wing in flight. Juvenile has buff mantle/scapular lines and streaked breast. **Voice** Flight call is a buzzing *chrrreet* and a shorter *tzit* or *trr*. **HH** Feeds in similar way to Dunlin. Mud banks of creeks, intertidal mudflats and brackish lagoons.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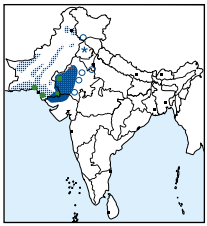
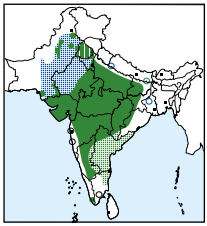


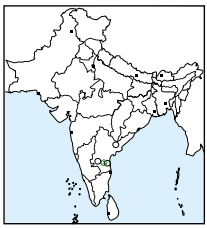
Cream-coloured Courser *Cursorius cursor* 21–24 cm

Resident and winter visitor. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Pale sandy upperparts and underparts. Adult has sandy-rufous forehead, grey nape and pale lores. In flight shows dark underwing (as does Indian Courser). Juvenile has buffish crown and fine dark scaling on upperparts. **Voice** Most common call is a sharp, piping whistle; also utters penetrating *praak-praak* in flight. **HH** Diurnal. Prefers to run off, rather than fly. When foraging runs rapidly in short bursts and pauses to bend down and pick up prey. Open arid desert country, sand dunes and stony desert. Often near villages where livestock are penned at night.



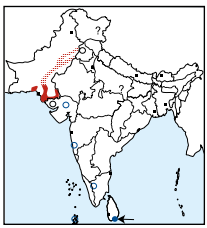
Indian Courser *Cursorius coromandelicus* 23 cm

Widespread resident in plains. **ID** Adult from Cream-coloured by rich orange underparts contrasting with grey-brown upperparts, and by blackish centre of belly, chestnut crown, and black lores. In flight, shows white band across uppertail-coverts and, as Cream-coloured, very dark underwing. Juvenile has dark brown crown, pale lores, strong brown-and-cream barring and blotching on upperparts, and brown markings on pale chestnut-brown underparts. Initially lacks dark patch on belly. **Voice** Usually silent. A low *gwut* or *wut*. **HH** Habits similar to those of Cream-coloured. Dry fallow fields, stony plains and dry river beds; prefers less arid habitats than those preferred by Cream-coloured.



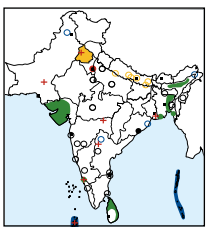
Jerdon's Courser *Rhinoptilus bitorquatus* 27 cm

Resident. Andhra Pradesh. **ID** Adult has broad buffish supercilium and narrow crown-stripe, orange throat patch, and white and brown banding across breast. Has huge eye, with prominent pale eye-ring, short yellow bill with black tip, and long yellow legs. In flight, shows broad black tail-band and white patch at tip of black primaries. Juvenile is undescribed. **Voice** Poorly described; a plaintive cry. **HH** Nocturnal. Bare patches of open ground among thin scrub forest in rocky foothills. Globally threatened.



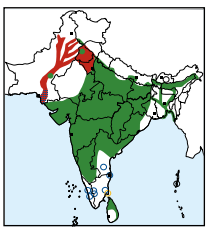
Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola* 16–19 cm

Breeds in Pakistan; winter visitor to India and Sri Lanka. **ID** White trailing edge to secondaries (although this can be difficult to see). Pronounced fork to tail, with tail-tip reaching tips of closed wings on adult at rest. Juvenile has shorter outer tail feathers, and upperpart feathers are fringed with buff with dark subterminal marks; white trailing edge is best feature from juvenile Oriental Pratincole. **Voice** A *kirik*... *kirik*... *kirik* and a rolled together *pirrit*... *pirrit*... *pirrit*. **HH** Usually crepuscular and also active in overcast conditions. Hawks insects with mouth wide open in powerful swallow-like flight. Also feeds on ground like a plover, making short dashes to capture prey. Open, dry bare ground around seasonal lakes, swamps and tidal creeks.



Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* 23–24 cm

Widespread resident; no recent records for Pakistan. **ID** Lacks white trailing edge to secondaries. Only shallow tail-fork, tail-tip falling well short of wing-tip at rest. Often with strong peach-orange wash on underparts in breeding plumage. Adult breeding has cream throat bordered by black gorget; with gorget of faint streaking in non-breeding plumage (these features are also shown by Collared). **Voice** Sharp *kyik*, *chik-chik* or *chet* calls. **HH** Habits similar to Collared. Dried-out bare flats by larger rivers and marshes; also low-lying pastures and fields, often near water.



Small Pratincole *Glareola lactea* 16–19 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Small size, with sandy-grey coloration, and square-ended tail (or with shallow fork). White panel across secondaries, blackish underwing-coverts and black tail band in flight. Adult breeding has black lores and buff wash to throat; non-breeding lacks these features and has streaked throat. Juvenile has indistinct buff fringes and brown subterminal marks to upperparts. **Voice** Utters a high-pitched, rattling *tiririt*. **HH** Habits similar to Collared's but often hawks insects later in the evening. Chiefly large rivers with sand or shingle banks; also lakes.

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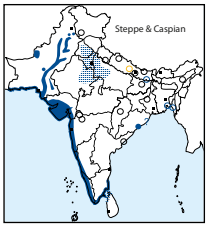
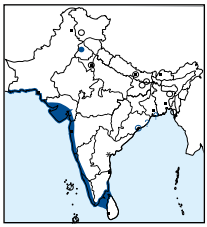


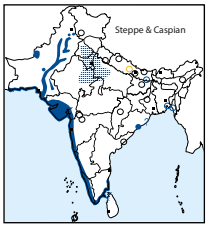
Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* 55–60 cm

Uncertain status. **ID** Much larger and broader-winged than Mew Gull. Compared with Heuglin's Gull, head appears more elongated with flatter crown, and has more elongated body. Eyes appear small, and set higher on head. Adult has paler grey upperparts than Heuglin's; head typically whiter than Heuglin's in non-breeding plumage but may show faint streaking on hind-neck. Eyes appear dark. Adult typically shows more white on longest primaries than Heuglin's, although can be very similar, with less black at wing-tips (due to grey inner webs of mid primaries being more extensive). Juvenile and first-winter very similar in plumage to Heuglin's but with paler 'wedge' on inner primaries, whiter underwing-coverts (with less extensive brown barring), and whiter head and underbody; some birds, however, are very similar. Moults pale-fringed dark juvenile mantle feathers earlier than Heuglin's (by September). Note, by first summer Heuglin's has adult-like grey feathers in mantle, coverts and tertials (unlike Caspian). Second-year has paler grey mantle than second-year Heuglin's and retains immature feathers in wing coverts. By second year, bill has extensive pink base and can recall immature Pallas's Gull (see that species). **Voice** Nasal and ringing. **HH** Coasts and inland waters.



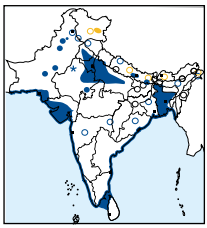
Heuglin's Gull *Larus heuglini* 58–65 cm

Winter visitor, mainly to coasts. **ID** Darkest large gull of region. Generally stockier and squarer-headed than Caspian. Adult has darker grey upperparts; head more heavily streaked in non-breeding plumage. Eyes yellow. Adult shows more extensive black on wing-tips than Caspian, typically with smaller white 'mirror' at tip of longest primary, and with no white 'mirror' on second longest primary (although this is present in *taimyrensis*). Juvenile and first-winter told from Caspian by darker inner primaries, darker greater coverts, and more-heavily marked underwing-coverts. Retains neat dark (pale-fringed) juvenile mantle feathers for longer than Caspian (to December). Heuglin's reaches adult plumage one year ahead of Caspian. By first-summer has adult-like grey feathers in mantle, coverts and tertials. By second-winter mantle and coverts are largely uniform grey and adult-like (coverts of Caspian retain many immature feathers). *L. h. taimyrensis*, which may occur in subcontinent, is bulkier and broader-winged than *L. h. heuglini*, and upperparts of adult are a shade paler. **Voice** Deep, nasal *gagaga*. **HH** Coasts and inland waters.



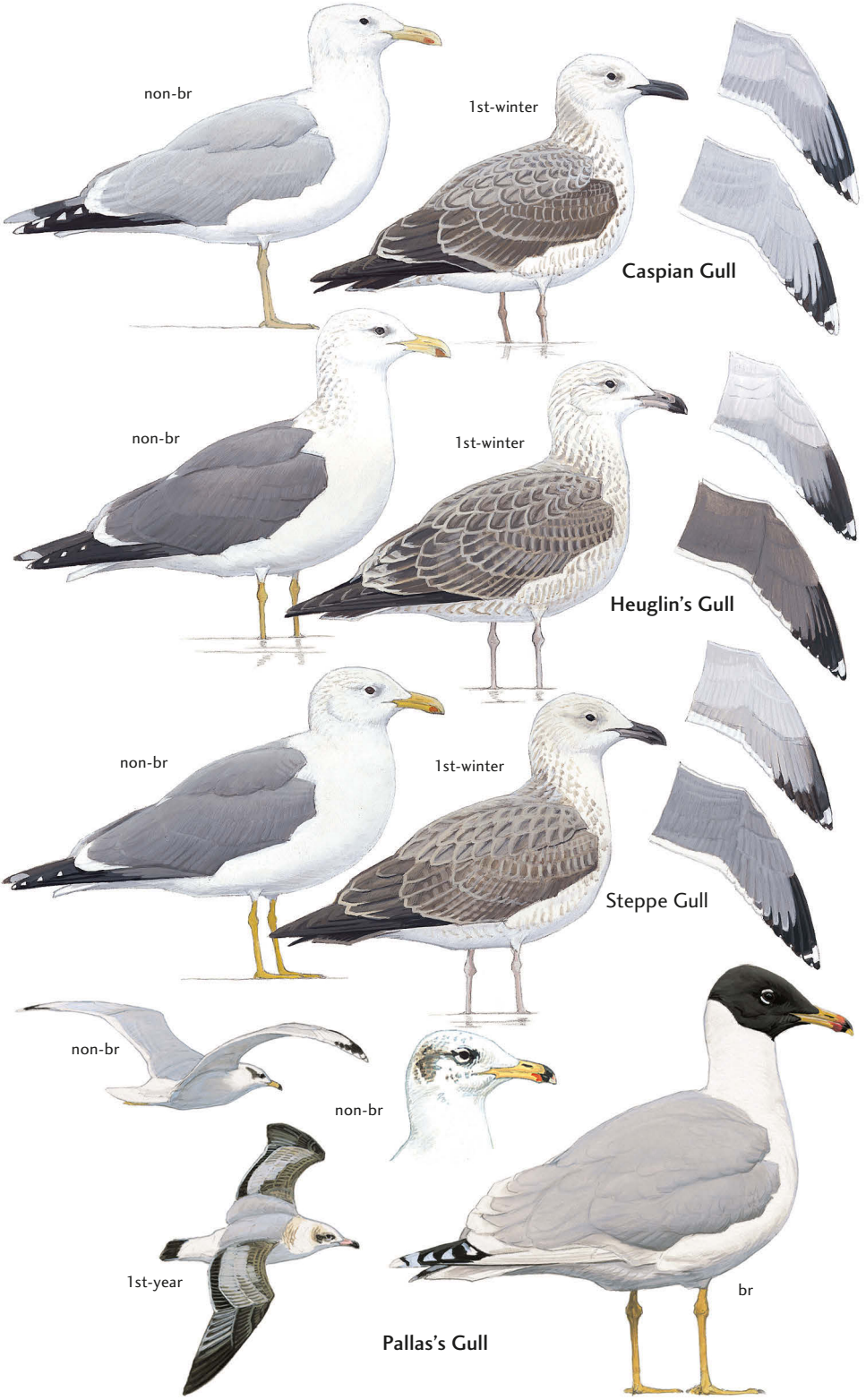
Steppe Gull *Larus* (*heuglini*) *barabensis* 59 cm

Widespread winter visitor and passage migrant to NW and NE. **ID** Compared with Caspian and Heuglin's, appears smaller, with smaller more rounded head and smaller bill. Adult similar to Heuglin's, but has paler grey upperparts (but similar to *L. h. taimyrensis*). Upperparts darker grey, and with fuller black wing-tip than Caspian (similar to Heuglin's). Eye yellow. Adult breeding has deeper yellow bill, and more extensive red gonys-spot than Caspian (extending onto upper mandible, and variably mixed with black); legs can be brighter orange-yellow. Bill paler in winter with dark subterminal marks, and pale tip. In juvenile and immature plumages as Heuglin's but like Caspian moults juvenile mantle feathers by autumn. **Voice** High, drawn-out *peeeer*. **HH** Coasts and inland waters.



Pallas's Gull *Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus* 69 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Larger than Caspian and Heuglin's. Head is more angular, with gently sloping forehead, and crown peaks behind eye; bill is longer and strikingly dark-tipped (except in juvenile), with bulging gonys. Eyes always dark. Adult breeding has black hood with bold white eye-crescents, and yellow bill with red tip and black subterminal band. White tips to primaries contrast with black subterminal marks, and white wedge-shaped patch on outer wing contrasts with pale grey coverts. Adult non-breeding has largely white head with variable black mask (and white eye-crescents). Juvenile has brown mantle and scapulars with pale fringes, resulting in scaly pattern. From juvenile Caspian by combination of structural features, more pronounced dark mottling on hind neck and sides of breast contrasting with whitish underbody, paler bar across greater coverts, and more clearly defined black tail-bar; dark mask is usually more pronounced. First-winter/first-summer has grey mantle and scapulars (unlike in Caspian). From second-winter Caspian by dark mask and streaking across hind crown (as adult non-breeding), more pronounced brown mottling on hind neck and sides of breast, and clear-cut dark tail-band. May acquire partial hood in first summer. Second-winter has largely grey upperwing, with dark lesser-covert bar and extensive black on primaries and primary coverts. Third-winter as adult non-breeding, but with more black on primaries. **Voice** Deep, hoarse *kra-ah*. **HH** Coasts, lakes and large rivers. **TN** Formerly placed in *Larus*. **AN** Great Black-headed Gull.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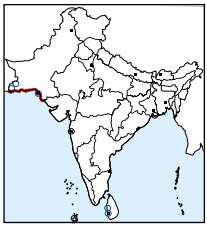
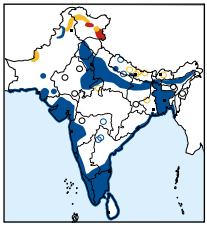


Sooty Gull *Ichthyaetus hemprichii* 45 cm

Breeds in Pakistan; visitor to coasts elsewhere. **ID** In all plumages has heavy, two-toned bill, broad white trailing edge to secondaries, and very dark underwing contrasting with white belly and vent. Adult has dark brown hood, whitish collar, brown breast-band, and greyish-brown mantle and upperwing; bill yellowish with black-and-red tip. Juvenile, first- and second-winter have rather uniform brownish head and breast, brown mantle and wing coverts (with pale fringes in juvenile), and dark tail-band; bill initially greyish with black tip, becoming similar to adult during second winter. **Voice** Loud, mewing *kaarr* or *keee-aaar*; also high-pitched *kee-kee-kee*. **HH** Coasts; often in harbours and around fishing boats. **TN** Formerly placed in *Larus*.

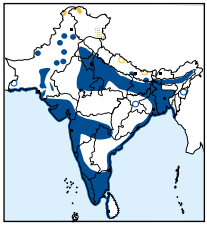
Mew Gull *Larus canus* 43 cm

Rare visitor. N subcontinent. **ID** Smaller and daintier than Caspian, with shorter and finer bill; in flight, wings are proportionately longer and slimmer. Adult has darker grey mantle than Caspian, with more black on wing-tips; bill yellowish-green, with dark subterminal band in non-breeding plumage. Head and hind neck heavily marked in non-breeding (unlike adult non-breeding Caspian). First-winter/first-summer have grey mantle; unbarred greyish greater coverts forming mid-wing panel, narrow black subterminal tail-band, and well-defined dark tip to greyish/pinkish bill best distinctions (in addition to structural differences) from second-year Caspian (which also has grey mantle). Second-winter has black on primary coverts but is otherwise similar to adult. **Voice** Calls include a nasal *keow* and a drawn-out shrill *glieeoo*. **HH** Recorded on lakes and large rivers in the region, also coasts in its normal range. **AN** Common Gull.



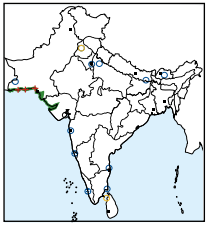
Brown-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus* 42 cm

Breeds in Ladakh; widespread winter visitor and passage migrant. **ID** Slightly larger than Black-headed, with more rounded wing-tips, and broader bill which is dark-tipped in all ages. Adult has broad black wing-tips (broken by white 'mirrors') and white patch on outer primaries and primary coverts; underside to primaries largely black and underwing-coverts greyer than in Black-headed; iris pale yellow (not brown as in adult Black-headed). In breeding plumage, hood paler brown (especially on face) than Black-headed's. Juvenile and first-winter have broad black wing-tips contrasting with white patch on primary coverts and base of primaries. **Voice** As Black-headed's, but deeper and gruffer. **HH** Coasts, tidal creeks and large inland lakes and rivers. **TN** Formerly placed in *Larus*.



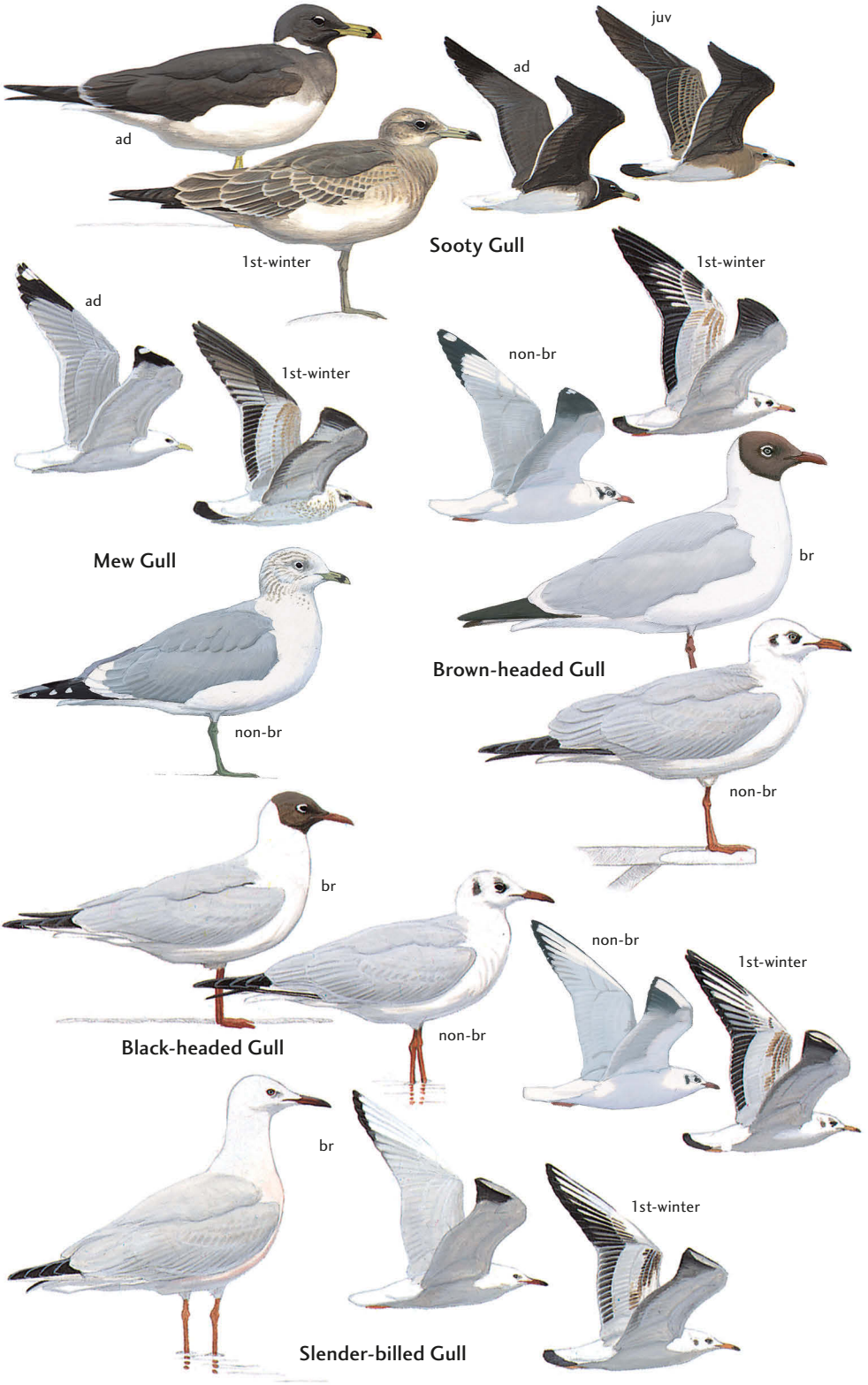
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* 38 cm

Widespread winter visitor and passage migrant. **ID** Smaller than Brown-headed, with finer bill and narrower and more pointed wings. In all plumages, has distinctive white 'flash' on primaries/primary coverts of upperwing, and black on wing-tips and upperwing is much less extensive than in Brown-headed. Bill blackish-red and hood uniform dark brown in breeding plumage. In non-breeding and first-winter plumages, bill tipped black and head largely white with dark ear-covert patch. **Voice** A nasal *kyaaar*, short *keck* and deeper *kuk*. **HH** Coasts, harbours, fishing villages, estuaries, large rivers and inland lakes. **TN** Formerly placed in *Larus*.



Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei* 43 cm

Resident in Pakistan; winter visitor to Nepal, India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. **ID** Gently sloping forehead, longish neck, and longer bill compared with Black-headed. In flight, both neck and tail appear longer than Black-headed's. Adult has white head throughout year (may show grey ear-covert spot in winter), deep red bill (often looking blackish, paler in winter), pale iris (dark in Black-headed), and variable pink flush on underparts. First-winter/first-summer from Black-headed by paler and less distinct dark eye-crescent and ear spot (sometimes completely lacking), pale iris, paler orange bill (with dark tip smaller or absent), paler legs, less prominent dark trailing edge to inner primaries, and more extensive white on outer primaries resulting in more prominent white 'flash' on wing. Juvenile has grey-brown mantle and scapulars, with pale fringes (generally paler and lacking ginger-brown coloration of juvenile Black-headed). **Voice** Slightly deeper than that of Black-headed. **HH** Coastal waters, lagoons, estuaries, large tidal creeks and saltpans; also offshore and in Pakistan small numbers on inland lakes in post-monsoon period. **TN** Formerly placed in *Larus*.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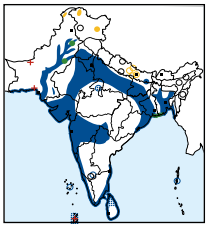
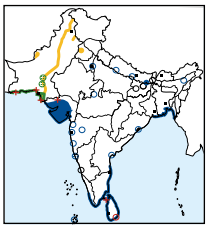
Slender-billed Gull



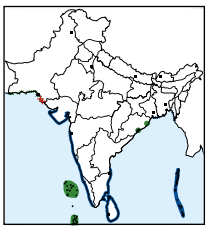
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* 35–38 cm

Breeds locally in Pakistan and N India; widespread in winter. **ID** From Sandwich Tern by shorter and stouter gull-like bill, broader-based, less pointed wings, and shorter, stockier body. Flight is steady and more gull-like, less graceful, with shallower wing-beats. Does not plunge-dive like Sandwich. Rump and tail are grey (white on Sandwich) and concolorous with back in all plumages. Adult breeding has black cap, and darker grey upperparts than in other plumages. Black half-mask in non-breeding and immature plumages (lacking black 'U' across hind crown of Sandwich). Juvenile less heavily marked on upperparts than juvenile Sandwich. **Voice** Nasal *ger-wek* with stress on second syllable; alarm a series of fast agitated, nasal laughing notes *dididit*. **HH** Coastal and freshwater wetlands.



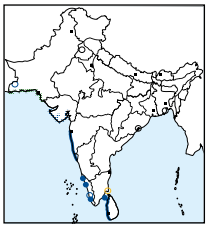
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* 47–54 cm

Breeds in Pakistan, Gujarat and Sri Lanka; widespread in winter. **ID** Large size and broad-winged/short-tailed appearance. Huge red bill and black underside to primaries. Adult breeding has complete black cap. Adult non-breeding has black-streaked crown and black mask; bill is duller, with more black at tip. First-winter and first-summer are similar to adult non-breeding, but show faint dark lesser-covert and secondary bars and dark-tipped tail (but upperwing appears much plainer than in Lesser and Great Crested Terns). Juvenile has narrow dark subterminal bars to scapulars and wing-coverts; forehead and crown are more heavily marked, almost forming dark cap. **Voice** Utters a guttural *gek-gek-gek* or *gir-vit*. **HH** Coastal mudflats, saltpans, tidal creeks, brackish lakes and lagoons, large inland lakes and rivers, and marshes. **TN** Formerly placed in *Sterna*.



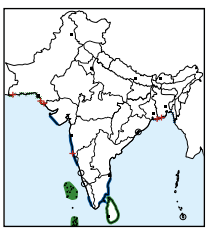
Lesser Crested Tern *Thalasseus bengalensis* 35–37 cm

Occurs offshore almost all year; breeds in Pakistan. **ID** From Great Crested by smaller and slimmer yellowish-orange to orange bill, smaller size and lighter build (recalling Sandwich Tern), and paler grey coloration to upperparts. From Sandwich by bill colour and grey rump and tail. Adult breeding has black crown and crest including forehead, although black of latter is quickly lost (forehead is never black on Great Crested). Adult non-breeding has black nape band. Juvenile has dark centres to lesser and greater coverts and secondaries, which show as diffuse dark bars across wing, and has dark centres to feathers of mantle, scapulars and tertials. Upperwing pattern is similar to Great Crested's, but dark bars are typically paler and less contrasting. First-winter and first-summer are similar to adult non-breeding, but shows darker grey primaries and dark lesser-covert and secondary bars. **Voice** Gives an upward-inflected *kree-it*, much as Sandwich Tern. **HH** A marine tern, usually found in offshore waters and often far out to sea; also tidal creeks and harbours. **TN** Formerly placed in *Sterna*.



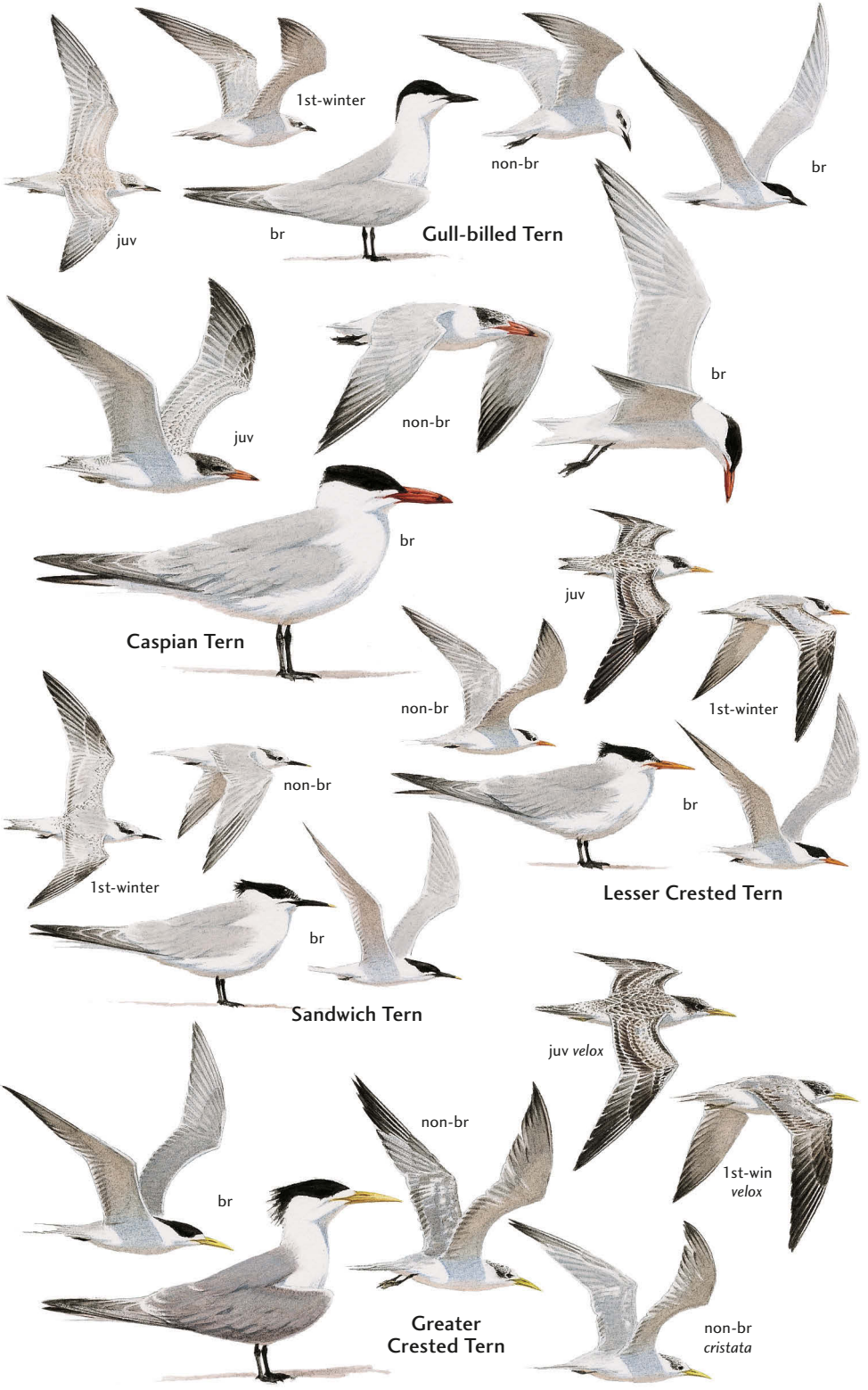
Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* 36–41 cm

Visitor. Mainly W coasts. **ID** Slim black bill with yellow tip, and more rakish appearance than Gull-billed with narrower, more pointed wings which appear set forward and sharply angled, and longer, tapering body. White rump and tail contrast with greyer back. Adult breeding has black cap with crest. Adult non-breeding has white forehead and crown, and black crest forming U-shaped patch. First-winter and first-summer as adult non-breeding, but with darker lesser-covert and secondary bars, and dark corners to tail. Juvenile more heavily marked than juvenile Gull-billed, with dark subterminal bars to wing-coverts and mantle, and dark patterning to tertials; has black rear crown and nape lacking in juvenile Gull-billed. **Voice** Gives an upward-inflected hoarse *kree-it*. **HH** A marine tern; frequents coasts, tidal creeks and open sea. **TN** Formerly placed in *Sterna*.



Greater Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* 46–49 cm

Resident. Coasts of subcontinent. **ID** From Lesser Crested by broader, slightly drooping, cold yellow to lime-green bill, and by larger size and stockier build. In adult plumage, shows well-defined whitish fringes to tertials, and has darker grey coloration to upperparts than Lesser Crested. Immature plumages are similar but generally more strongly patterned than in Lesser Crested. *S. b. cristata*, with paler grey upperparts, has not been recorded, but may be the subspecies occurring in the Nicobar Islands. **Voice** A harsh *kerrer* or *kerrak*. **HH** Mainly offshore waters and often at considerable distances out at sea; also larger tidal creeks and channels. **TN** Formerly placed in *Sterna*.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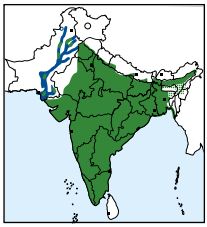
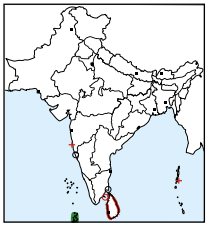


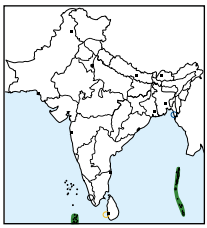
River Tern *Sterna aurantia* 38–46 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult breeding has orange-yellow bill, black cap, greyish-white underparts, and long greyish-white outer tail feathers; whitish primaries contrast with otherwise grey wing to form striking 'flash' on outer wing in flight. In non-breeding plumage lacks elongated outer tail feathers, and has blackish mask and mainly grey crown. Large size, stocky appearance, and stout yellow bill (with dark tip) help separate adult non-breeding and immature from Black-bellied. Juvenile has dark fringes to upperparts, black streaking on crown and nape, whitish supercilium, and dark mask extending as dark streaking onto ear-coverts and sides of throat. **Voice** Fairly short, shrill, staccato *kiuk-kiuk* in flight. **HH** Large inland waters.



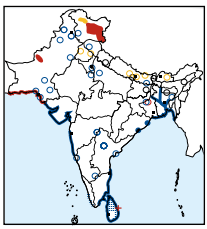
Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii* 33–38 cm

Resident and summer visitor. India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID** Pale grey upperparts and rump concolorous with back, long tail with white outer feathers, broad white trailing edge to wing, lack of prominent dark trailing edge to underside of primaries, and rather stiff and rapid flight action help separate from Common Tern. In breeding plumage, bill either black or red with extensive black tip, and pink flush to underparts. Juvenile has black bill and legs, black subterminal marks to upperpart feathers, and largely black crown. **Voice** Flight call is different from Common and Black-naped, a disyllabic *chu-vee*, recalling Spotted Redshank. **HH** Coastal waters and offshore islands.



Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* 35 cm

Resident. Mainly Maldives, Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** Adult very pale greyish-white, with black bill and legs, and black mask and nape band. Has whiter mantle and wings than Roseate, with distinct black outer edge to outermost primary, and lacks obvious white trailing edge to upperwing. Nape band is paler and not so well defined in non-breeding plumage. Juvenile has black subterminal marks to upperpart feathers, and black streaking on crown (with less black on crown than juvenile Roseate but is otherwise very similar). **Voice** Call is also different from Roseate; a sharp *tsii-chee-ch-chip* and a hurried *chit-chit-chit-er*. **HH** Inshore waters around islands and lagoons.

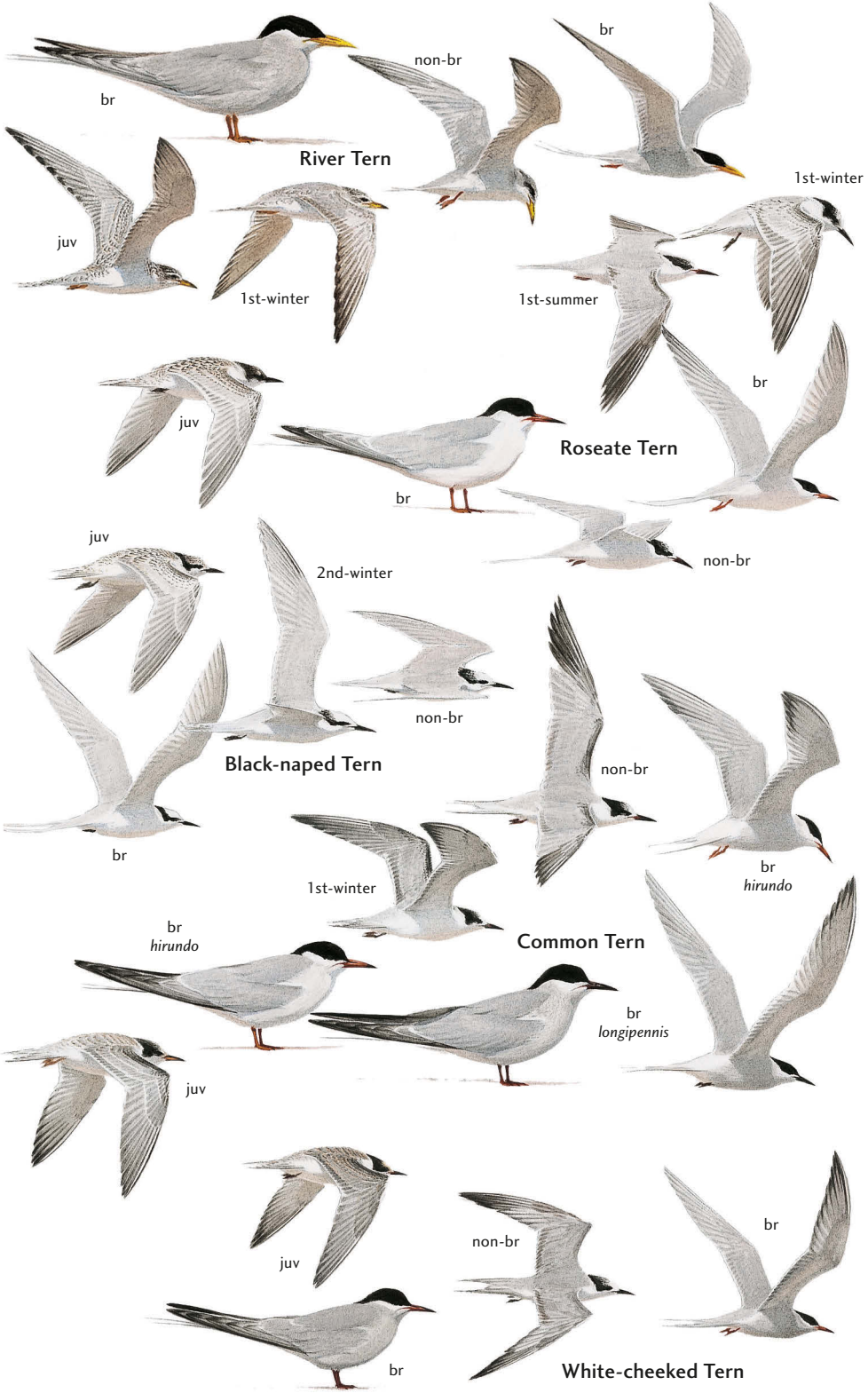


Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* 31–35 cm

Breeds in Ladakh and has bred Sri Lanka'; widespread winter visitor, mainly to coasts. **ID** Grey mantle contrasts with white rump and uppertail-coverts (compare with Roseate and White-cheeked), although contrast may be less apparent in non-breeding birds. In breeding plumage, compared with Roseate, has orange-red bill with less black at tip, orange-red legs, pale grey wash to underparts, dark trailing edge to underside of primaries and dark outer wedge to upperside, and shorter tail streamers which do not extend beyond tail at rest. In non-breeding and first-winter has darker grey upperparts, shorter tail with grey outer webs to feathers, shorter and stouter bill, and narrower white trailing edge to wing compared with Roseate. Juvenile has orange legs and bill-base (bill becoming black with age). Adult breeding *S. h. tibetana* breeding in north-west subcontinent has darker grey upperparts than the wide-spread nominate subspecies, with a shorter bill with more extensive black tip. *S. h. longipennis* probably also occurs. In breeding plumage, it has a mostly black bill, with greyer upperparts and underparts than the nominate subspecies and a more distinct white cheek-stripe; legs are dark reddish-brown. White rump and uppertail-coverts are best distinctions from White-cheeked. **Voice** A drawn-out and harsh *krri-aaah* and a short *kik*. **HH** Mainly coastal waters, also large inland waters.

White-cheeked Tern *Sterna repressa* 32–34 cm

Breeds off Maharashtra coast; offshore waters of Pakistan, W India, Lakshadweep and Maldives in non-breeding season. **ID** From very similar Common by darker grey upperparts and uniform grey rump and tail concolorous with back (tail feathers lacks white inner webs of Common, and tail therefore appears uniformly grey from above and below); underwing has darker trailing edge and pale central panel. In breeding plumage, darker grey on underparts than Common, and with white cheeks; from adult breeding Whiskered by longer bill, paler grey underparts, and more strongly forked tail. **Voice** Similar to Common; also has diagnostic hoarse *kee-err* or *kee-ceek*. **HH** Offshore waters.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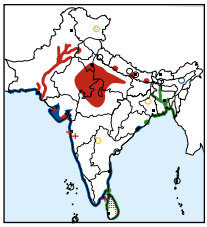
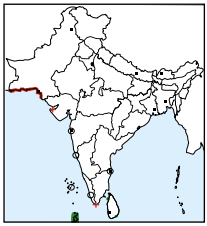


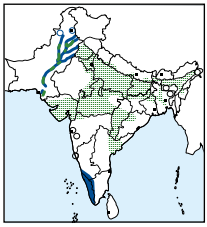
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* 22–24 cm

Resident; breeds locally, widespread in non-breeding season. **ID** Fast flight with rapid wingbeats and narrow-based wings. Feeds by rapid hovering followed by a plunge-dive. Adult breeding has white forehead and black lores, black-tipped yellow bill, orange legs and feet, and black outer primaries. Adult non-breeding and immature have blackish bill, black mask and nape band, dark lesser-covert bar, and dark legs. Juvenile has dark subterminal marks to upperpart feathers, and whitish secondaries form a broad pale trailing edge to the wing. Compared with the widespread nominate subspecies, *S. a. sinensis*, which breeds on W coast of peninsula and Sri Lanka, has paler grey upperparts and longer tail-streamers. **Voice** Utters *ket* or *ket-ket*. **HH** Mainly freshwater lakes and rivers, also occurs around coastal waters. **TN** Formerly placed in *Sterna*.



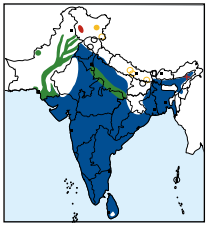
Saunders's Tern *Sternula saundersi* 23 cm

Breeds in Pakistan, Gujarat, Sri Lanka and Maldives?; in non-breeding season on W and S Indian coasts. **ID** Adult breeding as Little, but more rounded white forehead patch (lacking short white supercilium), and shorter brownish legs (orange on Little), broader black outer edge to primaries, and grey rump and centre of tail concolorous with mantle (can be grey on some Little, e.g. *S. a. sinensis*). There are no sure features for separating other plumages, although darker grey upperparts including rump and dark bar on secondaries may be useful. **Voice** As Little, but probably less sharp. **HH** Coastal waters. **TN** Formerly placed in *Sterna*.



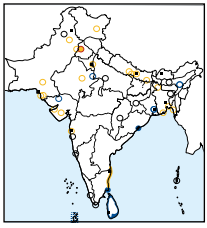
Black-bellied Tern *Sterna acuticauda* 33 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Smaller than River Tern, with orange bill (with variable black tip) in all plumages. Adult breeding has grey breast, black belly and vent, and long outer tail feathers. Like River Tern, whitish primaries contrast with grey rest of wing to form striking 'flash' on outer wing in flight. Long orange bill and deeply forked tail are best features from Whiskered Tern. Adult non-breeding and immature have white underparts, shorter tail, and black mask and streaking on crown. Confusingly, can occur with black cap and white underparts, when most similar to River, but structural differences and orange bill are diagnostic. Juvenile has dark mask and streaking on crown and nape, sandy coloration to head and mantle, and brown fringes to upperparts. **Voice** A clear, piping *peuo*. **HH** Breeds on large rivers; also other inland waters in winter.



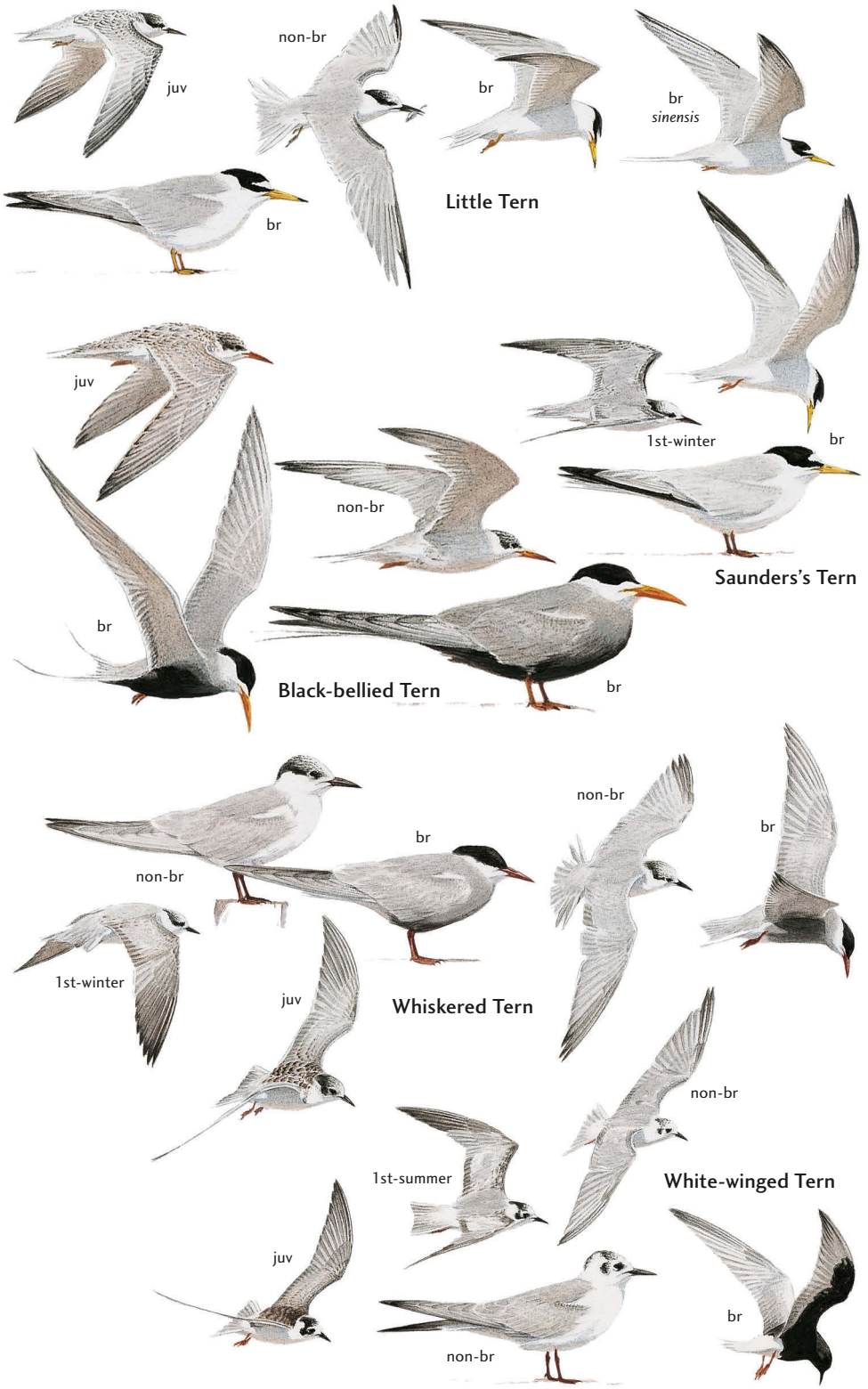
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* 23–25 cm

Breeds in Kashmir and erratically in N India; widespread in winter. **ID** In breeding plumage, white cheeks contrast with black cap and grey underparts. In non-breeding and juvenile plumage, from White-winged by larger bill, grey rump concolorous with back and tail, and different head pattern (see White-winged). Head markings can be limited to dark mask recalling small Gull-billed. Compared with White-winged Tern, juvenile generally lacks pronounced dark lesser-covert and secondary bars and has black and buff markings on mantle/scapulars that appear more chequered (more uniformly dark in White-winged Tern). **Voice** A hoarse *eirchk* or *kreep*. **HH** Inland and coastal waters.



White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus* 20–23 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** In breeding plumage, black head and body contrast with pale upperwing-coverts, and has black underwing-coverts. Black underwing-coverts are last part of plumage to be lost during moult into non-breeding plumage (always white in Whiskered). In non-breeding and juvenile plumage, smaller bill, whitish rump contrasting with grey tail, and different head pattern are distinctions from Whiskered. Black ear-covert patch is bold and drops below eye, and usually has well-defined black line down nape. First-year birds show dark lesser-covert and secondary bars, and by late winter these contrast strongly with pale (worn) median and greater coverts, which form pale panel in wing, while mantle also can appear noticeably darker than pale coverts, giving rise to 'saddled' appearance as in juvenile; birds in this plumage are distinct from non-breeding and first-year Whiskered which have more uniform mantle and wings. **Voice** A hoarse, dry *kirsch*. **HH** Mainly freshwater wetlands, also coasts.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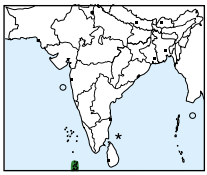
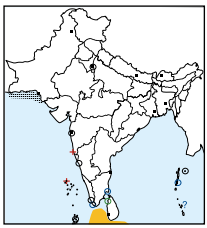


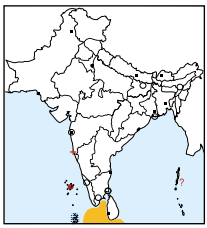
White Tern *Gygis alba* 30 cm

Breeds on Maldives. **ID** Adult all white except for dark primary shafts, beady black eye and black upturned bill. Juvenile has buff and brown barring on upperparts. **Voice** Calls include a guttural *heech heech*. **HH** Pelagic, except when breeding. Tame and inquisitive. Feeds in a similar manner to the noddies; flutters over the water and catches small fish in mid-air as they leap out.



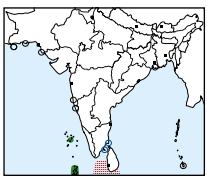
Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus* 30–32 cm

Breeds off Maharashtra coast, Lakshadweep and Maldives?; offshore waters of Pakistan, W India and Sri Lanka in non-breeding season. **ID** Smaller and more elegant than Sooty Tern. In breeding plumage, white forehead patch extends over eye as broad white supercilium, and has brownish-grey mantle and wing-coverts which are noticeably paler than crown/nape. Rump and tail are brownish-grey (strikingly black-and-white in Sooty Tern). Adult non-breeding and immature have less distinct dark loral stripe and crown/nape as these are streaked white, and have pale fringes to upperparts. Immature and juvenile plumages are quite different from those of Sooty. Juvenile has greyish-white crown, dark mask and white forehead and supercilium (shadow-pattern of adult), buffish fringes to mantle and wing-coverts, and brownish patch on side of breast. **Voice** Typical call is a yapping *wep-wep,* similar to that of Black-winged Stilt. **HH** Mainly offshore waters. **TN** Formerly placed in *Sterna.*



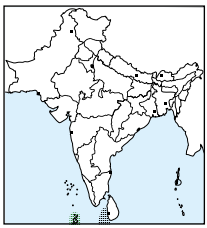
Sooty Tern *Onychoprion fuscatus* 33–36 cm

Breeds off Maharashtra coast, Lakshadweep and Maldives?; seas adjacent to breeding islands in non-breeding season. **ID** Larger and more powerful than Bridled, with blacker upperparts, more extensive blackish underside to primaries (contrasting with white underwing-coverts), black tail with white outer tail feathers, and white forehead patch not extending over eye (with narrower black loral stripe). Adult non-breeding may show white spotting on crown and white fringes to upperparts; upperparts may appear brownish and white feather bases may be visible. Immature is initially similar to juvenile, but after one year black of underparts is mixed with white; thereafter, resembles adult non-breeding, but with dark mottling on underparts. Juvenile has sooty-black head and breast contrasting with whitish lower belly, bold white spotting on mantle, scapulars and upperwing-coverts, pale underwing-coverts. **Voice** Loud, piercing *wide-a-wake*. **HH** Pelagic.



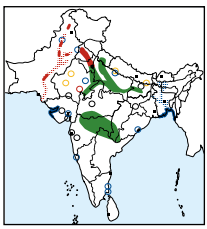
Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* 42 cm

Breeds in Lakshadweep and Maldives; also recorded off other coasts. **ID** Adult is dark chocolate-brown with pale grey forehead and crown. In flight, shows pale bar across upperwing-coverts and tail is a slightly darker brownish-black than upper body. Underwing-coverts paler than remiges. Bill stouter, proportionately shorter and noticeably downcurved compared with Black (see Appendix) and Lesser Noddies. Juvenile has browner forehead and crown, and indistinct pale fringes to upperparts. **Voice** Utters a *karrk* or *kwok kuok*. **HH** Pelagic, except when breeding.



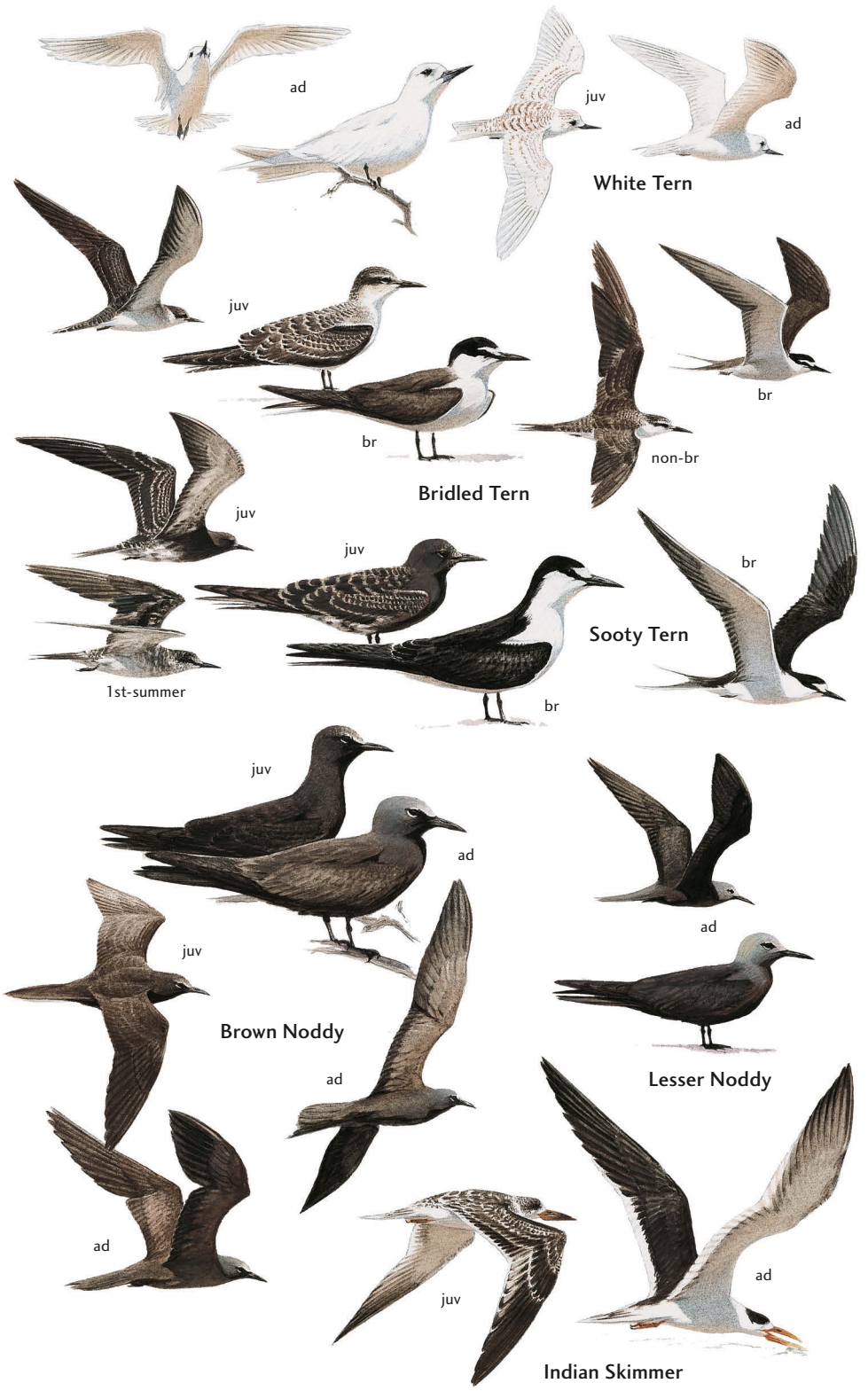
Lesser Noddy *Anous tenuirostris* 32 cm

Breeds in Maldives; rare migrant to Sri Lanka. **ID** Smaller and slimmer than Brown, with longer and slimmer bill. Pale greyish lores contrasting with black patch in front of eye, greyish cast to mantle and breast, underwing-coverts concolorous with remiges, and paler and greyer tail centre contrasting with darker upperparts are further differences from Brown. Juvenile has pale fringes to mantle and scapulars; has paler cap which is more sharply demarcated from nape and lores are dark grey and contrast more with forehead (although still showing contrast with black patch in front of eye as on adult). **Voice** Gives a soft *churr.* **HH** Pelagic, except when breeding.



Indian Skimmer *Rynchops albicollis* 40 cm

Resident. N and C subcontinent. **ID** Adult has large, drooping orange-red bill (with lower mandible projecting noticeably beyond upper), black cap, and black mantle and wings contrasting with white underparts. In flight, shows broad white trailing edge to upperwing, white underwing with blackish primaries, and white rump and tail with black central tail feathers. Juvenile has whitish fringes to browner mantle and upperwing-coverts, diffuse cap, and dull orange bill with black tip. **Voice** Makes a nasal *kap kap.* **HH** Mainly larger rivers with sandbanks. Globally threatened.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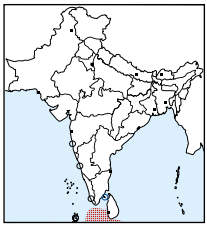
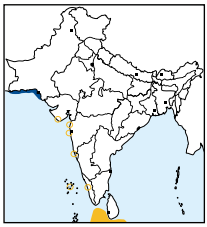


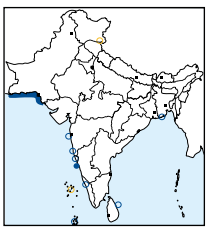
Brown Skua *Stercorarius antarcticus* 63 cm

Visitor. India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. **ID** Large, broad-winged skua showing broad white patches at base of upper- and underside of primaries. Larger and more powerful than South Polar Skua (see Appendix), with broader-based wings and larger bill. Adult from dark-morph South Polar by warmer brown coloration to upperparts and underparts, and pale streaking and rufous-brown mottling on mantle and scapulars, which often show fairly large white blotches (upperparts are uniformly dark on dark-morph South Polar). Some birds can be paler brown on upperparts and underparts, but lack contrast between head, underbody and mantle shown by intermediate-morph South Polar. Juvenile is warmer brown on upperparts and underparts, some with rufous-brown coloration to underparts. **HH** Normal flight is purposeful and direct, with steady shallow wing-beats, but is swift, dashing and hawk-like when in pursuit of gulls and terns. Coastal waters. **TN** Formerly placed in *Catharacta.*



Pomarine Skua *Stercorarius pomarinus* 56 cm

Visitor. Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Larger and stockier than Arctic Skua, with heavier bill (and more pronounced dark tip) and broader-based wings. In flight, appears slower and heavier, with deeper chest and broader-based wings. Adult breeding has long, broad central tail feathers twisted at end to form swollen tip (although tips can be broken off); when present this is the best feature from Arctic Skua. Occurs in both pale and dark morphs. Prominent pink base to bill, black chin, brighter yellow neck, more prominent breast-band, and dark flank barring are additional features which help to separate it from pale-morph Arctic. Adult non-breeding (pale morph) has indistinct cap, and barring to breast and upper- and undertail-coverts; uniform dark underwing-coverts distinguish it from birds in first- and second-winter plumage. Broader round-tipped central tail feathers best distinction from Arctic. Juvenile variable, typically dark brown with broad pale barring on uppertail- and undertail-coverts and underwing-coverts. Combination of strongly barred uppertail-coverts and dark uniform head is diagnostic of Pomarine, and head, neck and underparts never appear rufous-coloured as on some juvenile Arctic. Other juvenile plumages appear virtually identical to Arctic. Additional finer features from juvenile Arctic are the second pale crescent at base of primary coverts on underwing on most birds (in addition to pale base to underside of primaries), diffuse vermiculations (never streaking) on nape and neck, lack of (or very indistinct) pale tips to primaries, and blunt-tipped or almost non-existent projection of central tail feathers (more prominent and pointed in juvenile Arctic). Dark-morph juveniles occur, some being uniform sooty-black with white only at base of primaries; they differ little in subsequent immature plumages, and are not distinguishable by plumage from juvenile dark-morph Arctic. **HH** Often associates with feeding flocks of terns. Flight is direct and powerful, with steadily flapping wing-beats. Coastal waters, often near mouths of creeks and promontories with feeding terns; also often well offshore. **AN** Pomarine Jaeger.



Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* 45 cm

Visitor to coasts, mainly Pakistan. **ID** Smaller and more lightly built than Pomarine Skua, with slimmer bill and narrower-based wings. Adult breeding has pointed tip to elongated central tail feathers. Occurs in both pale and dark morphs. Adult non-breeding is as Pomarine but has more pointed tail-tip. Juvenile more variable than juvenile Pomarine, ranging from grey and buff with heavy barring to completely blackish-brown, and many have rusty-orange to cinnamon-brown cast to head and nape (not found on Pomarine); except for all-dark juveniles, further distinctions from Pomarine are dark streaking on head and neck and pale tips to primaries. **HH** Commonly associates with terns and gulls. Normal flight is buoyant, with jerky wing-beats alternating with glides; swift, dashing and falcon-like when in pursuit. Coastal waters, often near mouths of major creeks, rivers and lagoons with roosting and feeding gulls and terns. **AN** Parasitic Jaeger.

Brown Skua

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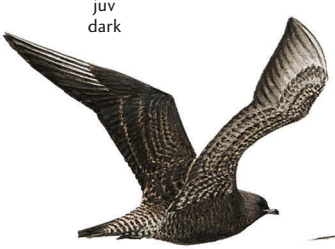
South Polar Skua
for comparison

juv
Pomarine

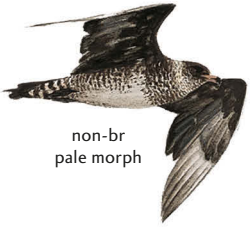
juv
intermediate

br
pale morph

juv
dark



Pomarine Skua



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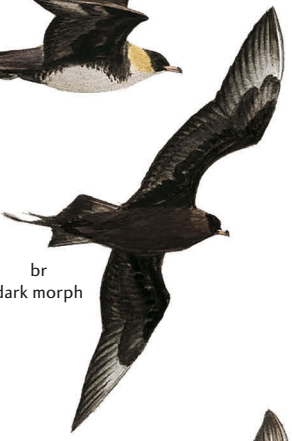
pale morph



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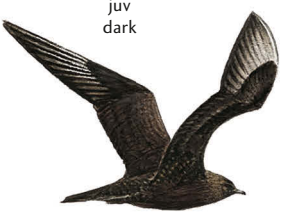

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Arctic Skua

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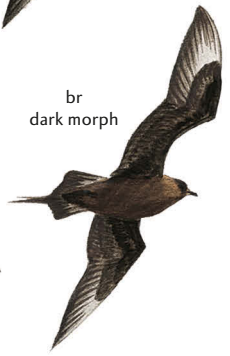

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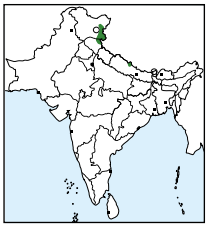
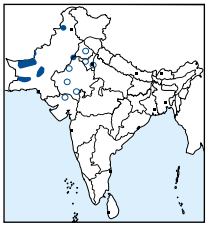


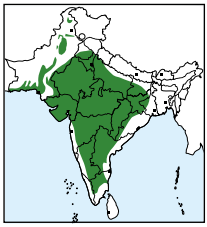
Tibetan Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes tibetanus* 48 cm

Resident. NW Nepal and India Himalayas. **ID** Large and pin-tailed. In flight, black flight feathers contrast with sandy coverts on upperwing, and underwing is mainly black except for white lesser coverts and trailing edge to primaries. Both sexes are distinctive, with pale orange face and throat, fine black barring on crown and breast, sandy upperparts with bold black spotting on scapulars, and white lower breast and belly. Male has unbarred sandy mantle and wing-coverts, and fawn wash across lower breast. Female is similar to male, but has fine black barring on mantle, coverts and tertials, and more extensive black barring on breast. Immature is similar to female, but has only faint traces of pale orange on throat and lacks pin-tail. **Voice** Calls include deep, disyllabic *guk-guk* or *caga-caga* notes. **HH** Drinks irregularly, unlike most sandgrouse. High altitude, barren, stony semi-desert.



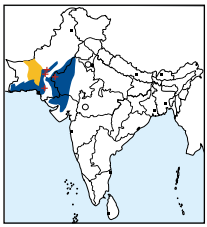
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse *Pterocles alchata* 31–39 cm

Probably breeds; winter visitor to Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Has pin-tail. White belly, with two (male) or three (female) narrow black bands across neck and breast. White underwing-coverts with black wing-tips and trailing edge; pale grey upperside to primaries. Male in breeding plumage has greenish upperparts with yellowish spotting, and black throat. In non-breeding plumage, male has buff upperparts barred with black, and has white throat. Female breeding has upperparts, including crown and hind neck, barred with golden-buff, grey and black. Has black bar across lower throat, in addition to the two across breast. In non-breeding plumage, female lacks grey barring on upperparts; throat is spotted with black, but lacks clear black band across lower throat. Juvenile is similar to respective non-breeding adult, but with patterning less well defined, and lacks pin-tail. **Voice** Flight calls are a loud, ringing *catar-catar,* a nasal *ga-ga-ga* and an abrupt, guttural *gang gang.* **HH** Highly gregarious in winter and on migration. Flights to water in huge flocks in early mornings and late afternoons. Arid, sandy desert, scrub desert and fallow land in partly cultivated semi-desert.



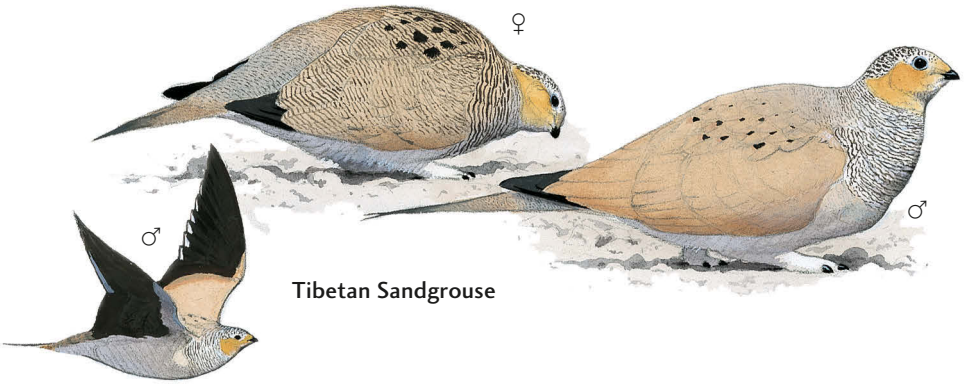
Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles exustus* 31–33 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Himalayas, the northeast and Sri Lanka. **ID** Pin-tailed, with dark underwing, dark belly and black breast line. Male is dusky buff, with yellowish wash to face; has black-fringed yellowish spots on wing-coverts, and diffuse blackish-chestnut belly. Female is heavily spotted with black on breast and barred with black on upperparts, and belly patch is dark brown and indistinctly barred with rufous. Buff banding across upperwing-coverts and lack of black gorget across throat are useful distinctions from female Black-bellied. Juvenile is similar to female, but is duller, has less heavily barred upperparts, lacks breast band, and has shorter tail. **Voice** Utters a chuckling, guttural *whit kt-arr.* **HH** Usually keeps in flocks of up to 30 birds outside breeding season or when flying to drink. Flies to drinking places in early to mid-morning. Sandy deserts, barren plains, sparse thorn scrub and fallow fields and stubbles at the desert edge.

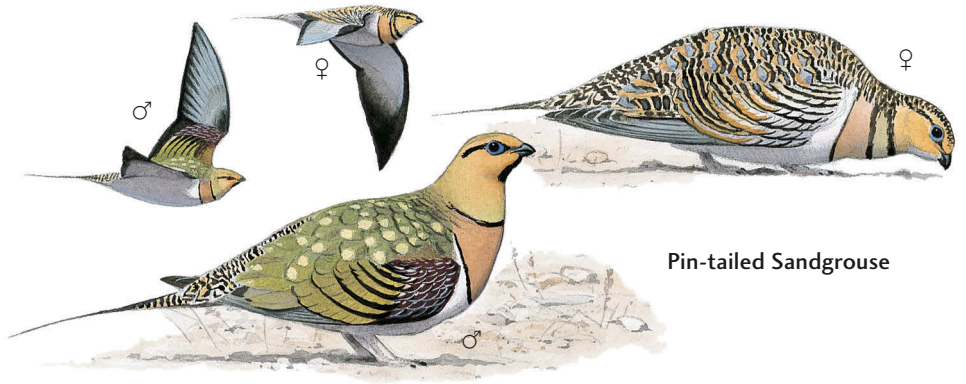


Spotted Sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus* 30–35 cm

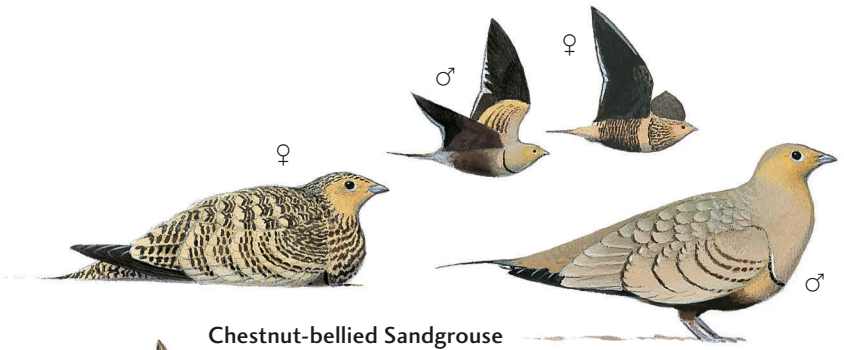
Breeds in S Pakistan and Rajasthan; winters in Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Pin-tailed. Rather pale upperwing with dark trailing edge, and whitish belly with black line down centre. Male is sandy olive-brown above, with buff spotting on wing-coverts, and has greyish supercilium and unmarked breast. Main plumage differences from male Crowned are lack of black-and-white patterning to head, and presence of black centre to belly. Female is boldly spotted with black on upperparts and breast. Told from female Crowned by warmer orange-buff coloration, sparser but more prominent spotting on upperparts and breast, unbarred lower breast and belly, and black centre to belly and vent. Juvenile is similar to female, but lacks orange throat and is more finely barred. Unbarred belly, with black line down centre, helps separate it from juvenile Crowned. **Voice** Gives a distinctive and far-carrying *quitoo quitoo*. **HH** Usually in flocks of 100 or more outside the breeding season or in flights to drinking places. Regularly flies to water about two hours after sunrise and also in evening in hot weather. Barren, sandy desert and arid stony foothills.



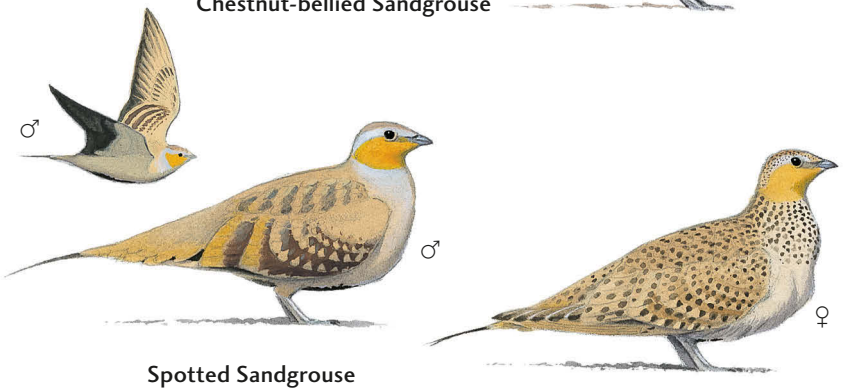
Tibetan Sandgrouse



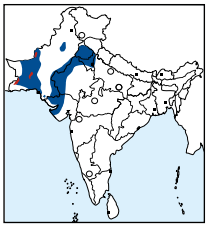
Pin-tailed Sandgrouse



Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse

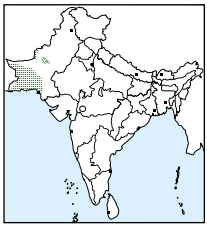


Spotted Sandgrouse



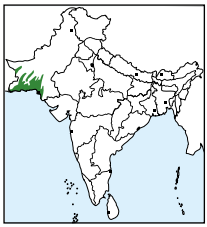
Black-bellied Sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis* 33–35 cm

Breeds in Baluchistan; winters in Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Large, stocky sandgrouse, lacking pin-tail; both sexes have black belly, and narrow black gorget across breast. Most similar to Chestnut-bellied, but stockier, with broader-based wings, lacks elongated central tail feathers, and has white underwing-coverts which contrast strongly with black flight feathers. Male has greyish head, neck and upper breast, black-and-chestnut throat, and yellowish spotting to upperparts. Female is heavily spotted with black on upper breast and upperparts. Boldly patterned underparts separate it from other female sandgrouse except Chestnut-bellied (but has black throat-collar and white underwing-coverts, and lacks buff banding across wing of that species). Juvenile is similar to female, but very soon resembles dull version of respective adult. **Voice** Utters a soft, gurgling *tchowrrr rerr-rerr*. **HH** Makes daily flights to water two hours or so after sunrise, and less regularly in the late afternoon. Thorn scrub in semi-desert and fallow cultivation at the desert edge.



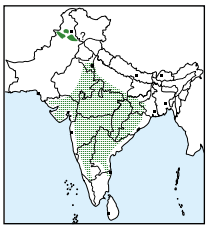
Crowned Sandgrouse *Pterocles coronatus* 27–29 cm

Resident. Mainly Pakistan. **ID** Small, compact and short-tailed. Blackish flight feathers contrast with coverts on both surfaces of wing. Male is sandy-brown, with prominent buff spotting on scapulars and coverts. From male Spotted by black-and-white pattern to head, darker rufous crown, and more prominent buff spotting on upperparts. Female is sandy-buff all over, heavily spotted and barred with black. From female Spotted by colder coloration, less prominent spotting, barred lower breast and belly, and lack of black centre to belly and vent. Possibly confusable with female Lichtenstein's, but has orange-buff throat. Juvenile is similar to female, but has whiter throat and is more finely barred. Immature resembles respective adult, but head pattern of young male is indistinct (and more closely resembles male Spotted). **Voice** Gives a loud, guttural chatter *ch-ga, ch-ga-ra*. **HH** Typically flies to drink in the early morning in flocks of up to 30 birds. Very barren and arid desert regions.



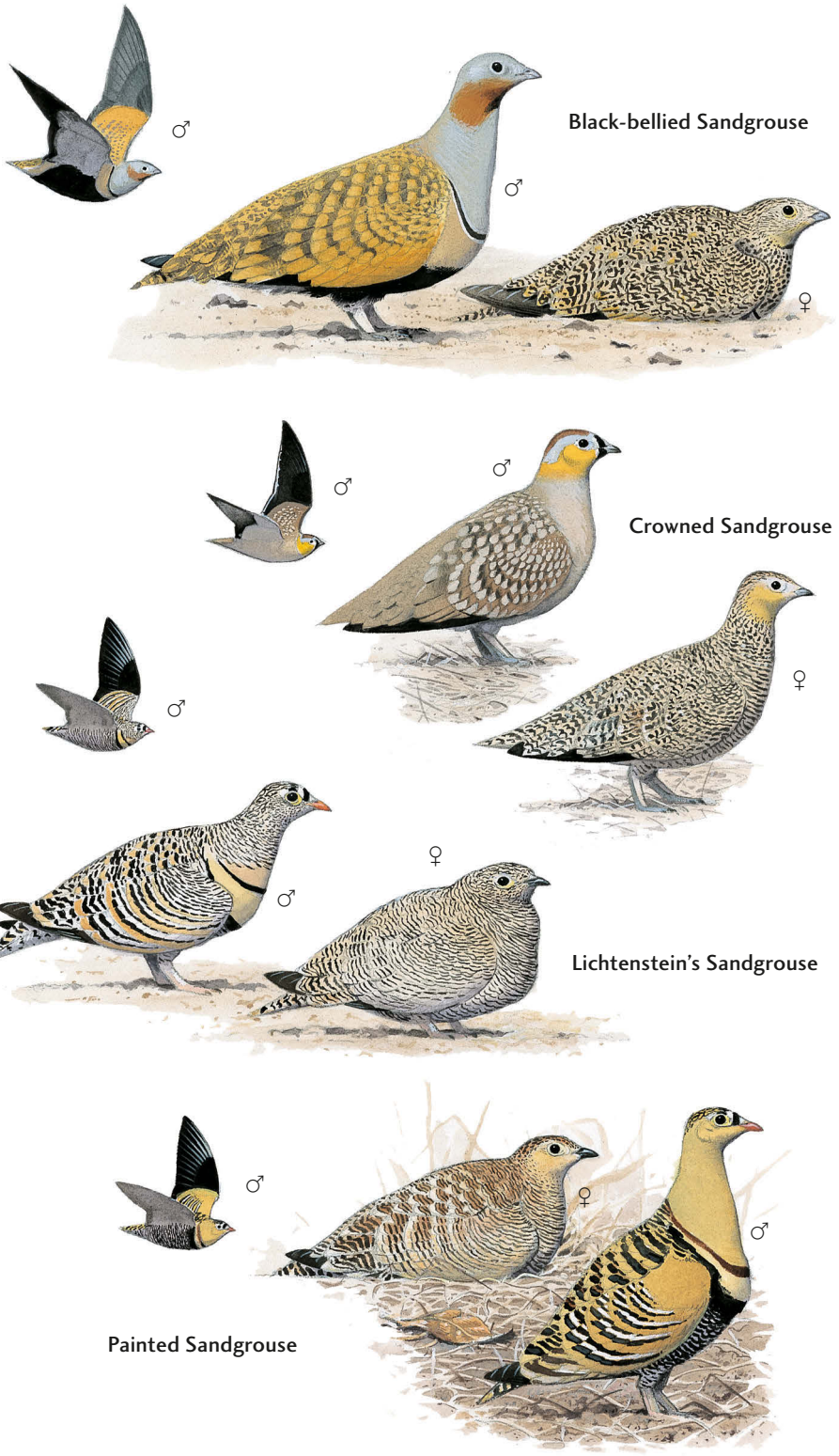
Lichtenstein's Sandgrouse *Pterocles lichtensteinii* 24–26 cm

Resident. SW Pakistan. **ID** Small, stocky, and heavily barred. Underwing dark grey. Male has white forehead and forecrown crossed by two black bands, golden-buff banding across closed wing, and yellowish-buff and black banding across breast. Female is heavily barred all over, and lacks patterning of head and bands across breast of male. Juvenile is similar to female, but more finely barred. Immature as adult, but male may lack black-and-white patterning to head, and breast-banding may be poorly defined. **Voice** Flight call is a *wheet-wheet-wheet* and a *qwee-oo*, and also a guttural *krerwerwerwer*. **HH** Habits are very similar to those of Painted. Low stony hills with scattered scrub in desert and dry rocky nullahs.



Painted Sandgrouse *Pterocles indicus* 28 cm

Resident. N Pakistan and India. **ID** Small, stocky, and heavily barred. Underwing dark grey. Male has white forehead divided by black cross-band, and strongly banded breast. Is more richly coloured and strongly marked than Lichtenstein's (although there is no overlap in range), and has unbarred buffish-orange neck, breast and inner wing-coverts. Female is heavily barred all over, and lacks male's patterning on head and breast. Is similar to female Lichtenstein's, but has unspotted creamy face and throat, more broadly and coarsely barred upperparts with warmer buff and rufous tones, and darker, more densely barred belly; and outer greater coverts are unbarred and show as distinct buff area in wing. Immature is similar to female, but is more closely barred. **Voice** A clucking *yek-yek-yek* when flushed, and a *chirik-chirik* flight call. **HH** Less gregarious than other species, except Lichtenstein's; usually keeping in twos, threes or small groups of up to ten. Drinks only after dusk, Low hills with scattered thorn scrub or open rocky and grassy areas; firebreaks in deciduous forest and shallow rocky ravines.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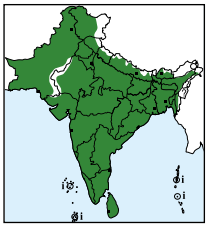
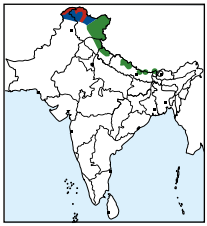


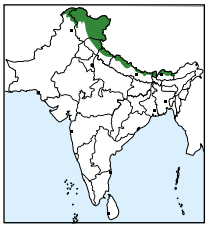
Common Pigeon *Columba livia* 33 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Grey tail with blackish terminal band, and broad black bars across greater coverts and tertials/secondaries. Darker grey and lacks whitish tail-band of Hill Pigeon. Northern subspecies *neglecta* has pale grey to whitish back, and is slightly paler grey on underparts than *intermedia* of peninsular India and Sri Lanka. Feral populations differ considerably in coloration and patterning. **Voice** Gives a deep, repeated *gootr-goo, gootr-goo*. **HH** Feral birds live in villages and towns; wild birds around cliffs and ruins. **AN** Rock Dove.



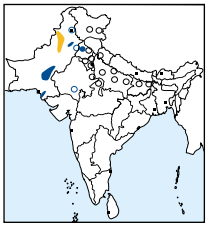
Hill Pigeon *Columba rupestris* 33 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Similar to Common, but paler grey, with white back and with white band across tail contrasting with blackish terminal band. Juvenile is browner and lacks iridescence on neck; feathers of neck and breast are fringed with rusty-buff, and coverts are fringed with creamy-buff. **Voice** Utters a high-pitched repeated *gut-gut-gut-gut*. **HH** High altitude villages and cliffs, mainly in Tibetan plateau country.



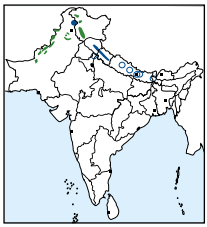
Snow Pigeon *Columba leuconota* 34 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Adult has slate-grey head, creamy-white collar and underparts, fawn-brown mantle contrasting with pale grey wing-coverts, white back contrasting with blackish rump and uppertail-coverts, and white band across blackish tail. Juvenile has greyish-buff wash to neck, breast and underparts, and fine whitish fringes to coverts and scapulars. **Voice** A prolonged, high-pitched *coo-ooo-ooo*. **HH** Cliffs and gorges in mountains with plentiful rainfall.



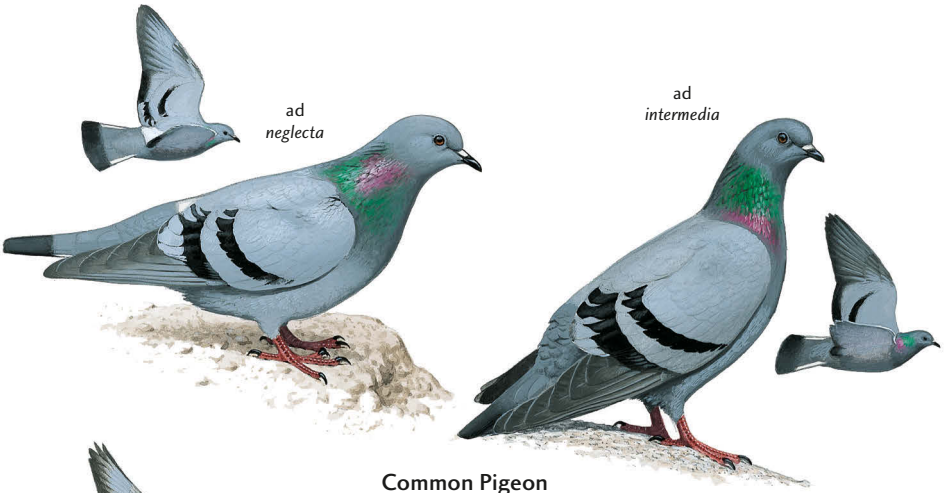
Yellow-eyed Pigeon *Columba eversmanni* 30 cm

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Pakistan and N India. **ID** Smaller than Common, with narrower and shorter black wing-bars. Iris and orbital skin are yellowish, and tip of bill can be distinctly yellowish. Has brownish cast to upperparts, purplish cast to grey crown and nape, and extensive greyish-white back and upper rump. Also slight differences in tail pattern from Common: dark terminal band is less clear cut and shows diffuse paler grey subterminal band. Juvenile is similar to adult (e.g. with yellow orbital skin), but iris is tinged brown, and lacks green-and-purple gloss to neck, mantle and breast. **HH** Plains cultivation. Globally threatened.

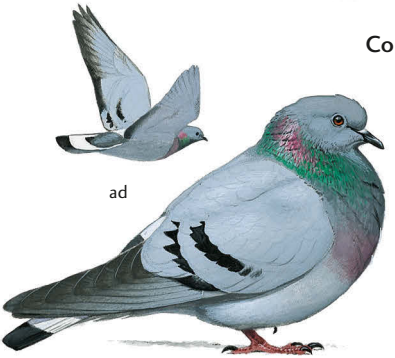


Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* 43 cm

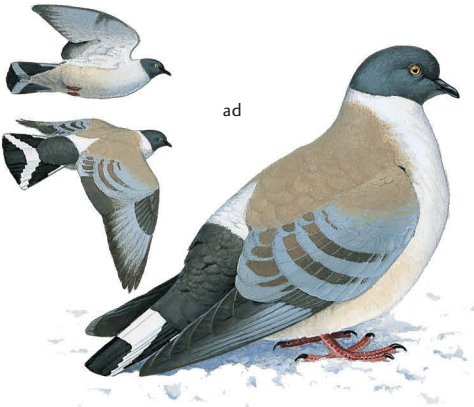
Resident. Baluchistan and Himalayas east to Kashmir, winters sporadically east to West Bengal. **ID** White wing patch and dark tail-band, buff neck patch, and deep vinous underparts. In flight, from below, shows greyish-white band across tail and grey undertail-coverts are concolorous with base of tail. Juvenile is duller and browner, and lacks green gloss and buff patch on neck. **Voice** Utters a deep and throaty repeated *kookooo-koo…kookoo*. **HH** Scrub-covered and wooded hillsides and valleys.



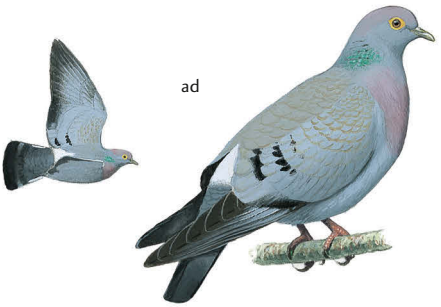
Common Pigeon



Hill Pigeon

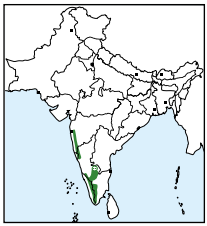


Snow Pigeon



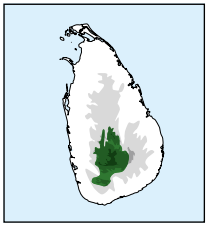
Yellow-eyed Pigeon

Common Wood Pigeon



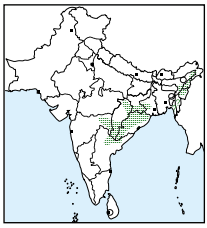
Nilgiri Wood Pigeon *Columba elphinstonii* 42 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** Smaller than Mountain Imperial Pigeon, with darker maroon-brown upperparts, darker underwing, and uniform slate-grey tail (banded on Mountain Imperial). Adult has black-and-white chequered pattern on hind neck, and purple-and-green gloss on mantle, foreneck and breast. Male has paler grey crown and more extensive maroon-brown on upperparts than female. Juvenile has less distinct chequered hind neck, almost lacks purple-and-green iridescence, and has chestnut fringes to mantle and coverts. **Voice** A langur-like *who,* followed by repeated deep *who-who-who* owl-like notes. **HH** Moist broadleaved evergreen forest. Globally threatened.



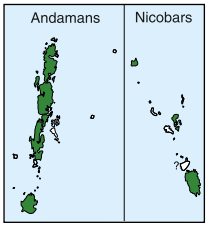
Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon *Columba torringtoniae* 36 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** A medium-sized, dark pigeon. Adult has dark slate-grey upperparts, including wings and tail, and lilac-grey head, neck and underparts. Has black hind neck with white stippling, and strong purplish (and weaker green) gloss on mantle, neck and breast. Juvenile is duller with diffuse chestnut fringes to grey underparts, and feathers of hind neck are broadly tipped with grey. **Voice** A deep owl-like *hoo* in courtship display. **HH** Mainly hill forest. Globally threatened.



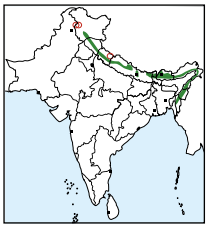
Pale-capped Pigeon *Columba punicea* 36 cm

Resident. Eastern Ghats, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Pale cap, vinous-chestnut underparts, and maroon-brown mantle and wing-coverts with green-and-purple gloss. Sexes are similar, but female is darker with darker grey crown. Juvenile initially lacks cap; upperparts browner, with chestnut fringes, and underparts mixed grey and rufous-buff. **Voice** A soft mew. **HH** Tropical and subtropical forest and secondary growth. Globally threatened.



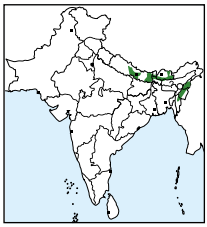
Andaman Wood Pigeon *Columba palumboides* 41 cm

Resident. Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** Dark slate-grey upperparts and grey underparts, including undertail-coverts, with paler head and neck, latter with indistinct checkerboard patterning. Reddish cere, base of yellow bill and eye patch. Upper mantle and breast have metallic green sheen, and feathers of rest of upperparts are variably fringed with metallic purple. Underwing and underside of tail appear almost blackish in flight. Female is darker than male. Juvenile lacks metallic green and purple sheens and is darker and browner. **Voice** A series of mellow, purring notes, usually *crroo-crroo.* **HH** Dense broadleaved evergreen forest.



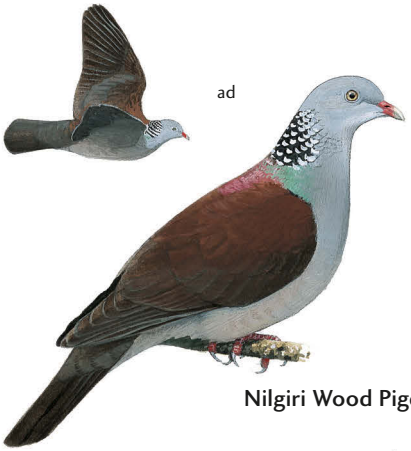
Speckled Wood Pigeon *Columba hodgsonii* 38 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From Ashy Wood Pigeon by lack of buff patch on neck, white spotting on wing-coverts, 'speckled' underparts, and dark grey vent and undertail-coverts which are concolorous with underside of tail. Like Ashy, shows very dark underwing and blackish uppertail and undertail in flight. Male has maroon mantle and maroon on underparts, replaced by grey on female. Juvenile is similar to female, but neck patterning is less distinct; has finer white tips to coverts, and underparts are more diffusely patterned. **Voice** Utters a deep *whock-whr-ooooo whroo.* **HH** Mainly oak-rhododendron forest.

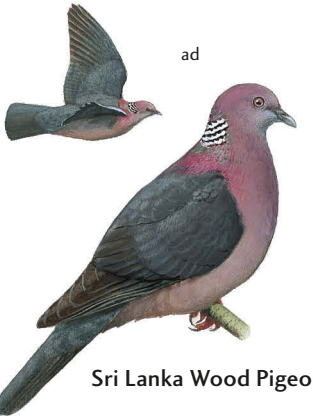


Ashy Wood Pigeon *Columba pulchricollis* 36 cm

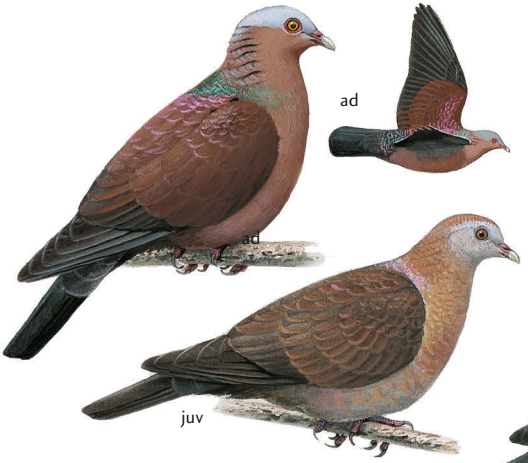
Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From Speckled by combination of dark slate-grey upperparts, no white spotting on wing-coverts, uniform dark slate-grey breast without 'speckling', and creamy-buff belly and undertail-coverts which contrast with dark underside of tail. Has buff collar (at close range, rufous-buff tips to neck feathers contrast with dark bases, forming checkerboard pattern), and metallic green-and-purple sheen to lower neck and back. Juvenile has browner upperparts, with less distinct patterning on neck, and has rufous fringes to feathers of breast and belly. **Voice** Gives a deep, slightly booming, repeated *whuoo... whuoo... whuoo.* **HH** Dense broadleaved forest.



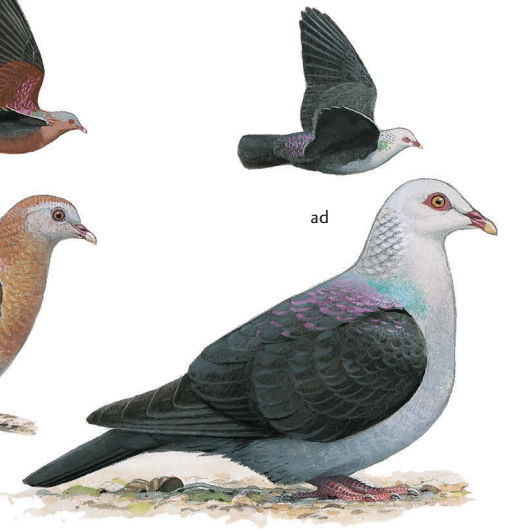
Nilgiri Wood Pigeon



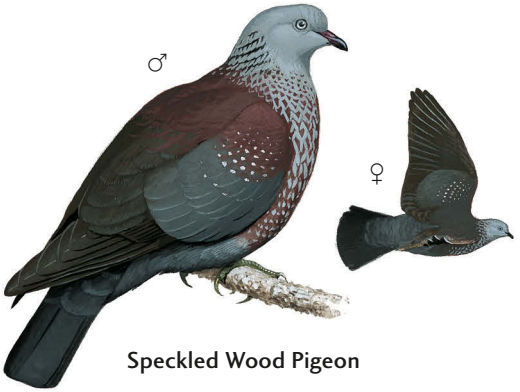
Sri Lanka Wood Pigeon



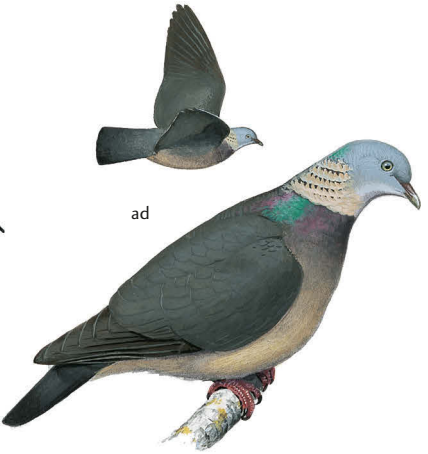
Pale-capped Pigeon



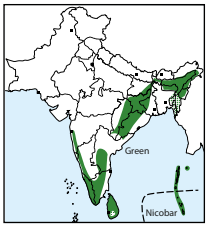
Andaman Wood Pigeon



Speckled Wood Pigeon



Ashy Wood Pigeon

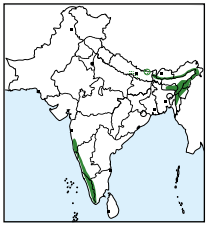


Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* 43–47 cm

Resident. Mainly Western Ghats, E and NE India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** From Mountain Imperial by dark metallic bronze-and-green upperparts, uniform dark green tail (distinctly banded on Mountain Imperial), and maroon undertail-coverts, contrasting with, and appearing darker than, grey breast and belly. **Voice** A lengthy, deep, hollow and resonant *currr-whoo,* with emphasis on the second syllable. **HH** Moist tropical broadleaved forest.

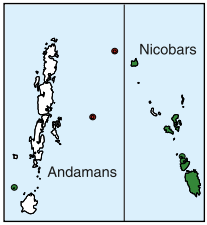
Nicobar Imperial Pigeon *Ducula* (*aenea*) *nicobarica* 42–46 cm

Resident on some smaller islands of Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** Similar to Green but has darker (less metallic) and more bluish or purplish upperparts; underparts are purer grey, lacking lilac wash, and undertail-coverts are brown or grey. **HH** Mainly tall evergreen forest; also mangroves and beaches close to forest edge. **TN** Treated here as conspecific with Green Imperial Pigeon.



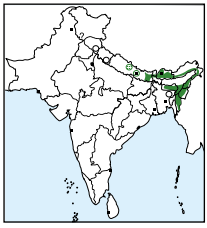
Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* 43–51 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE Indian hills and Western Ghats. **ID** From Green Imperial by brownish upperparts, creamy-white chin and throat, pale terminal band to tail, and pale buff undertail-coverts which are paler (not darker) than belly and vent. Juvenile has rufous fringes to mantle and wing-coverts, with chestnut leading edge to wing, and tail pattern is less well defined. **Voice** A deep, resonant, booming double note preceded by a click heard at close range. **HH** Tall broadleaved evergreen forest.



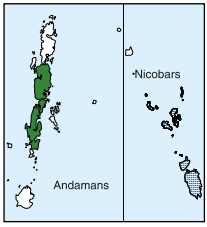
Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* 41 cm

Resident. Mainly Nicobars. **ID** Creamy-white, with black flight feathers and black terminal band to tail. Has blue-grey bill, and dark eye contrasting with white head. Juvenile has diffuse ginger-buff tips to feathers of head, upperparts and underparts. **Voice** A deep and resonant purring, repeated *wrrooom*. **HH** Evergreen broadleaved forest.



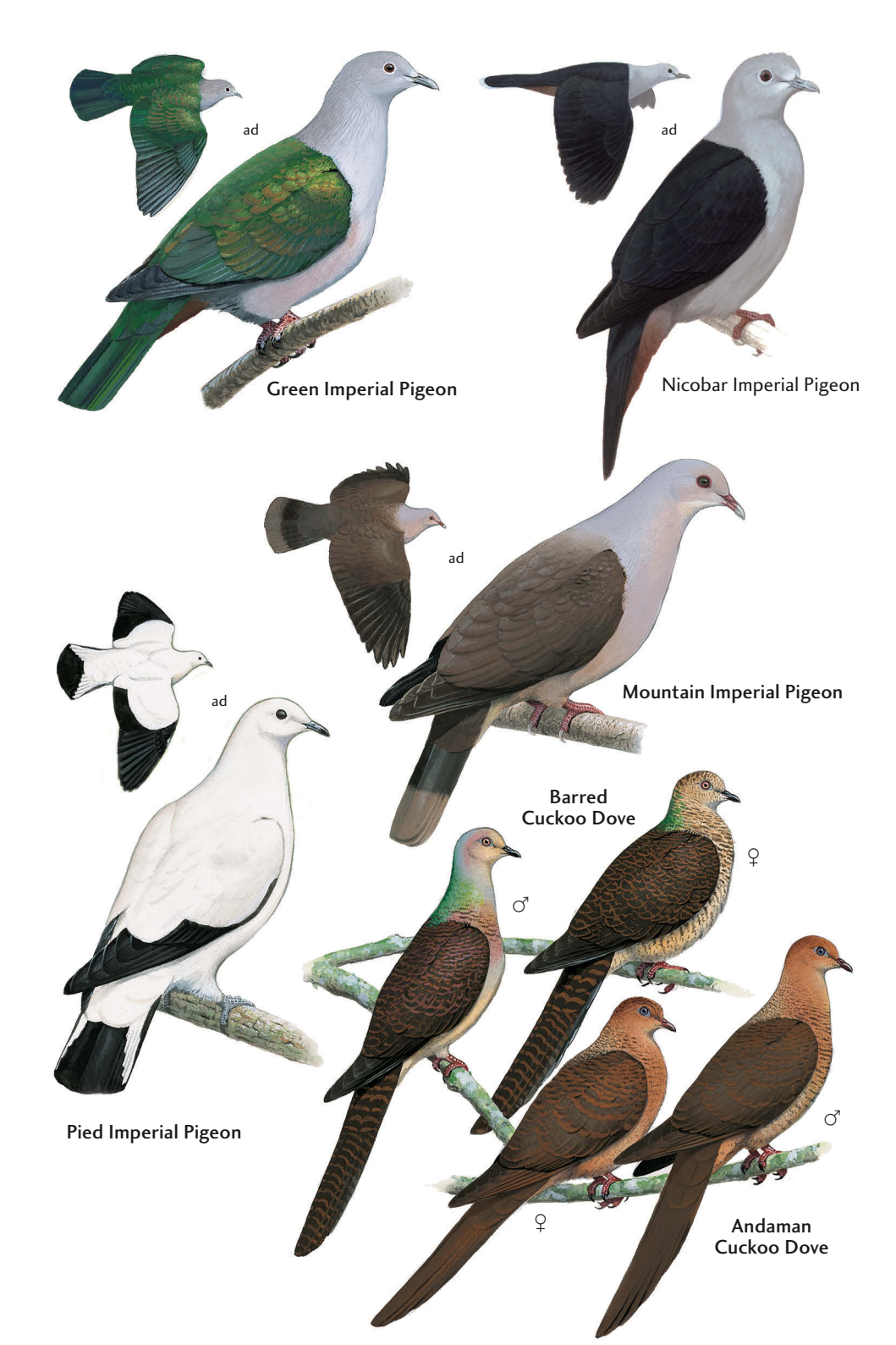
Barred Cuckoo Dove *Macropygia unchall* 41 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Long, graduated tail, slim body and small head. Face, belly and vent pale. Upperparts and tail rufous, barred with dark brown. Male has unbarred head and neck with extensive purple-and-green gloss. Female is heavily barred on head, neck and underparts, with gloss restricted to nape and sides of neck. Juvenile is more uniformly dark and heavily barred. **Voice** A very deep *croo-umm*. **HH** Dense broadleaved forest.



Andaman Cuckoo Dove *Macropygia rufipennis* 41 cm

Resident. Andamans and Nicobars; only cuckoo dove in these islands. **ID** Long, graduated tail, slim body and small head. Rufous head and underparts. In flight, shows rufous flash across (inner webs of) primaries and rufous underwing-coverts. Male has brown barring across breast and belly, and unmarked rufous head. Female is more rufous with black mottling on crown and nape, and unbarred underparts. **Voice** A repeated, hoarse, deep, subdued croaking *o-o-o-o-ah*. **HH** Dense forest.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Green Imperial Pigeon
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Nicobar Imperial Pigeon
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Mountain Imperial Pigeon
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Pied Imperial Pigeon
Barred
Cuckoo Dove
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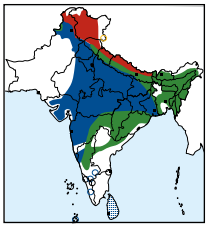
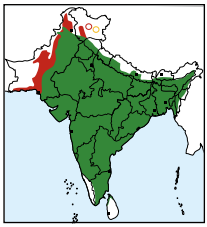
Andaman
Cuckoo Dove



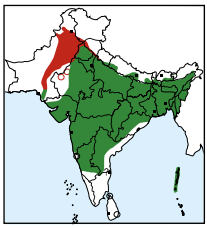
Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* 33 cm

Resident and winter visitor. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh south to C peninsular India and Sri Lanka. Not in arid northwest. **ID** Rufous-scaled scapulars and wing-coverts, dusky underparts, and barring on neck. In flight, has dusky-grey underwing and, in all but one Indian subspecies, has grey sides and tip to the tail. Juvenile lacks neck-barring, and has buffish-grey head and underparts, and pale buff fringes to dark-centred feathers of upperparts. Subspecies *S. o. meena* (W Himalayas) has white rather than grey sides and tip to tail, white rather than grey undertail-coverts, and paler underparts. *S. o. agricola* (E Himalayas and NE subcontinent) has deeper vinaceous-pink tinge to head, neck and underparts. *S. o. erythrocephala* (peninsula) has a reddish-brown head, neck and mantle. **Voice** A hoarse, mournful repeated *goor… gur-grugroo*. **HH** Open forest.



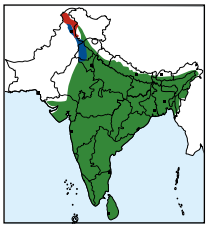
Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* 32 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in W Pakistan, most of Himalayas and SW India. **ID** Sandy-brown with black half-collar, white sides to tail, and white underwing coverts. Juvenile lacks neck-collar, and feathers of upperparts are fringed with buff. **Voice** A repeated cooing *kukkoo… kook*. **HH** Open dry country with cultivation and groves.



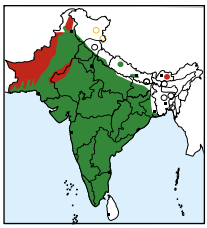
Red Collared Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* 23 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in most of northwest, N Himalayas, S India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Male has blue-grey head with black half-collar, pinkish-maroon upperparts, and pink underparts. Compared with Eurasian Collared, female has darker buffish-grey underparts, darker fawn-brown upperparts, greyer underwing-coverts, white (rather than grey) vent, and is smaller with shorter tail. Juvenile lacks neck-collar, and feathers of upperparts and breast are fringed with buff. **Voice** A harsh, rolling, repeated *groo-gurr-goo*. **HH** Light woodland and trees in open country. **AN** Red Turtle Dove.



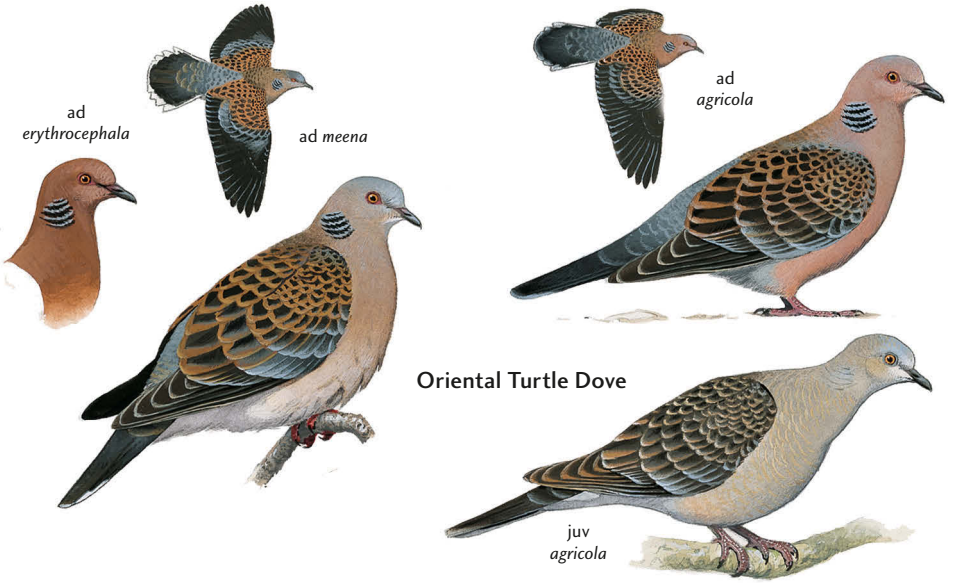
Spotted Dove *Stigmatopelia chinensis* 30 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in most of northwest and N Himalayas. **ID** Upperparts are scaled or spotted with pinkish-buff. Has extensive black-and-white chequered patches on sides of neck, vinaceous-pink tinged neck and breast, and dark grey-brown rump and tail with blackish base to outer tail feathers. Juvenile is paler and browner, lacks chequered patch on sides of neck, and has faintly barred mantle and scapulars and narrow rufous fringes to wing-coverts. *S. c. tigrina* (NE, south of Brahmaputra) has upperparts more finely scaled with buff. **Voice** A soft, mournful *krookruk-krukroo… kroo-kroo-kroo*. **HH** Cultivation, habitation and open forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Streptopelia*.

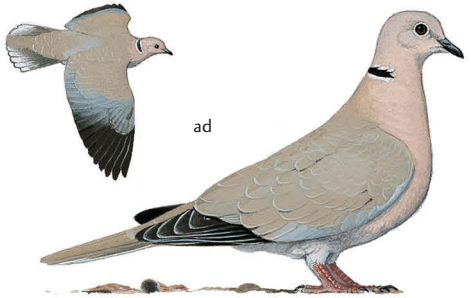


Laughing Dove *Stigmatopelia senegalensis* 27 cm

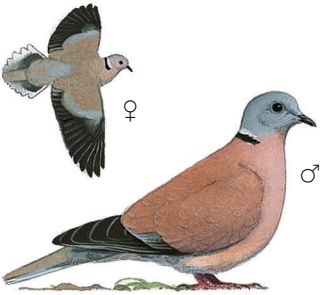
Widespread resident; unrecorded in most of Himalayas, the northeast and Sri Lanka. **ID** Slim, small, with fairly long tail. Brownish-pink head and underparts, uniform upperparts, and black stippling on upper breast. Juvenile duller, lacks black stippling, and has whitish fringes to scapulars and coverts. **Voice** A soft *coo-rooroo-rooroo* or *cru-do-do-do-do*. **HH** Dry cultivation and scrub-covered hills. **TN** Formerly placed in *Streptopelia*.



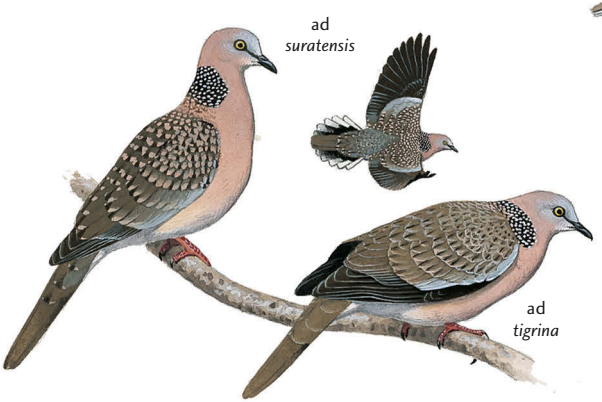
Oriental Turtle Dove



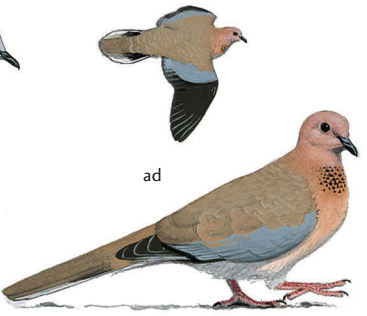
Eurasian Collared Dove



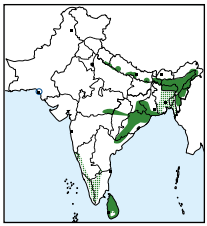
Red Collared Dove



Spotted Dove

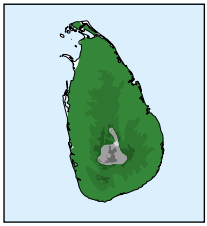


Laughing Dove



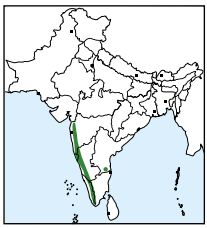
Orange-breasted Green Pigeon *Treron bicinctus* 29 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Has grey central tail feathers in both sexes (at rest, tail appears grey rather than green). Male from other green pigeons by orange breast bordered above by lilac band and yellowish-green forehead merging into pale blue-grey hind crown and nape. Mantle uniformly green. Female has yellow cast to breast and belly, and grey hind crown and nape. In Sri Lanka, lacks pronounced yellow forehead and throat of female *T. pompadora*. **Voice** A mellow, wandering whistle; also a subdued gurgling. **HH** Normally in small flocks, which unite into large ones where food is plentiful. Usually at tops of tall trees; eats fruits and berries. Subtropical moist broadleaved forest and well-wooded country.



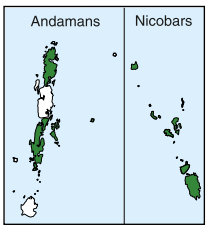
Sri Lanka Green Pigeon *Treron pompadora* 28 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** On Sri Lanka, only similar species is Orange-breasted. Has green central tail feathers (at rest tail appears green rather than grey in Orange-breasted). Male from Orange-breasted by maroon mantle (green in Orange-breasted), uniform green breast, yellow forehead and throat, and whitish undertail-coverts (rufous in Orange-breasted). Female has green mantle, and is best told from female Orange-breasted by yellow forehead and throat, and green-streaked whitish undertail-coverts (uniform cinnamon in female Orange-breasted). **Voice** Song is a low-pitched mellow whistling. **HH** Habits like those of Orange-breasted. Green Pigeon Forest and open areas with trees. **TN** This and the following three species are usually treated as conspecific, using the name Pompadour Green Pigeon for the complex.



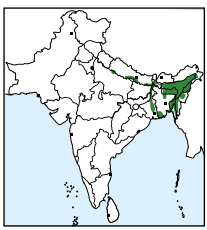
Grey-fronted Green Pigeon *Treron* (*pompadora*) *affinis* 28 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** In western peninsular India, only similar species is Orange-breasted. Male from that species by maroon mantle, uniform green breast, pale blue-grey cap, yellowish face and throat, and darker chestnut undertail coverts. Female has green mantle, and is best told from female Orange-breasted by yellowish face and throat, pale blue-grey cap and green scaling on whitish undertail coverts. **Voice** Song is a series of mellow, fluty whistles. **HH** Habits like those of Orange-breasted. Foothills evergreen and moist-deciduous forest.



Andaman Green Pigeon *Treron* (*pompadora*) *chloropterus* 29 cm

Resident. The only green pigeon in the Andaman and Nicobar Is. **ID** Compared with other green pigeons in the 'Pompadour group' is much larger with heavier bill, maroon mantle of male is less extensive (not extending onto wing-coverts, which are green), has bright lime-green rump, and undertail-coverts are yellowish with dark green marking. Mantle of female is green. **Voice** Song is similar to Ashy-headed's, but is more nasal. **HH** Habits like those of Orange-breasted. Evergreen forest and forest edge.

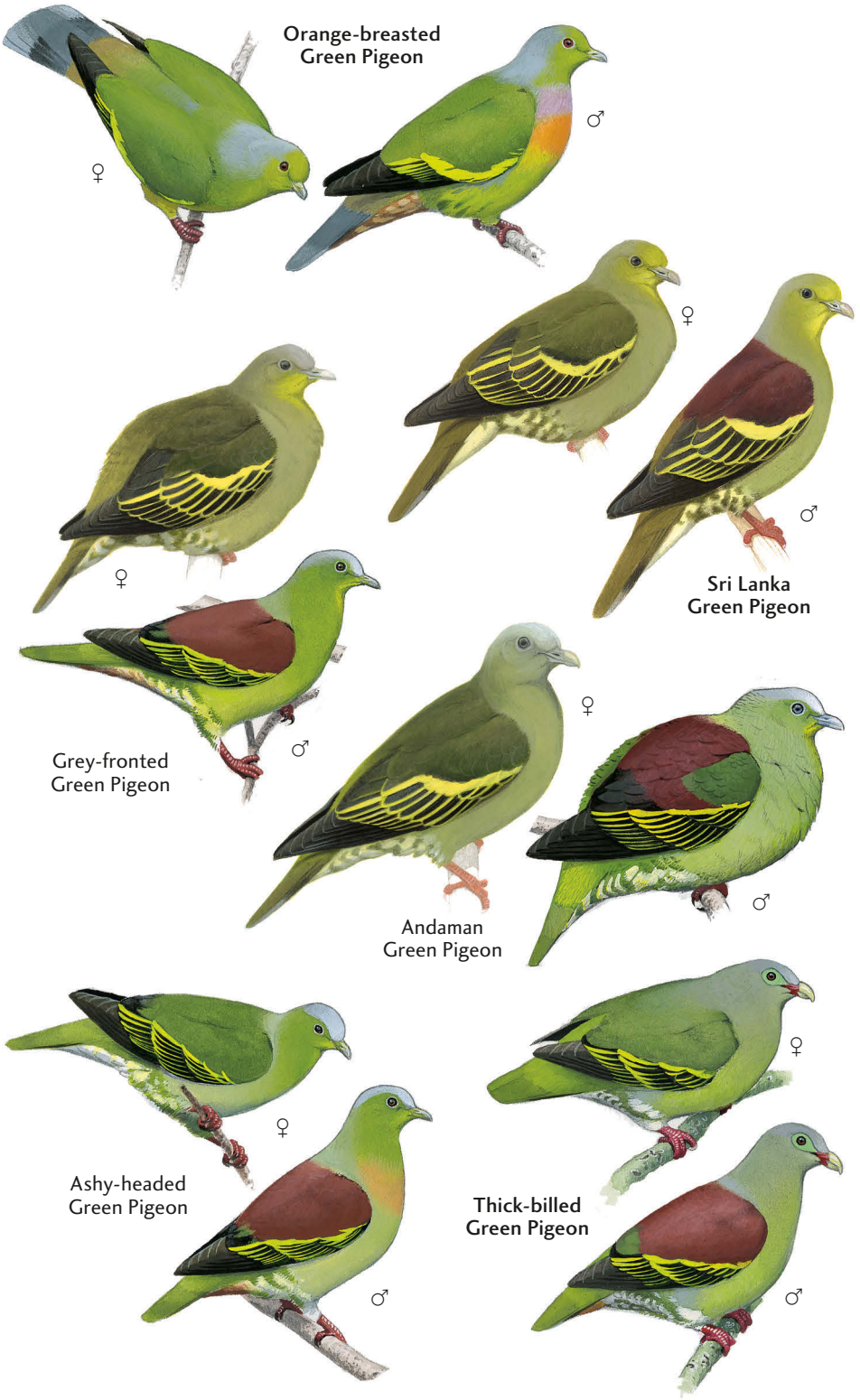


Ashy-headed Green Pigeon *Treron* (*pompadora*) *phayrei* 27 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills and NE India. **ID** Both sexes told from Thick-billed Green Pigeon by thin blue-grey bill (without prominent red base) and lack of prominent greenish orbital skin. Male has maroon mantle; further differences from male Thick-billed are diffuse orange patch on breast, greenish-yellow throat, and uniform dark chestnut undertail-coverts. Female lacks maroon mantle. Green central tail feathers, greyish cap, yellowish throat and white undertail covers help separate from female Orange-breasted. Tail shape and paler green coloration help separate from female Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon. **Voice** Song is similar to, but much lower-pitched than Grey-fronted's. **HH** Habits like those of Orange-breasted. Foothill evergreen and moist-deciduous forest.

Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra* 27 cm

Resident. E Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Both sexes told from Ashy-headed (in the 'Pompadour group') by thick bill with red base, prominent greenish orbital skin, pronounced whitish scaling on vent. Male has maroon mantle, and green breast without orange wash. **Voice** Song is a series of mellow, plaintive whistles. **HH** Habits like those of Orange-breasted. Tropical and subtropical forest and well-wooded areas.


Orange-breasted
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Grey-fronted
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Thick-billed
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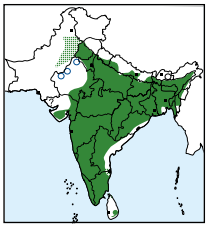
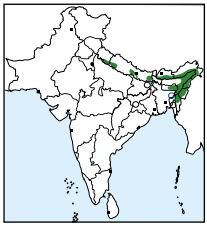


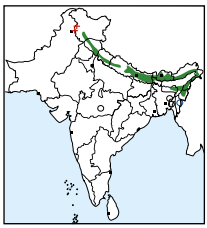
Yellow-footed Green Pigeon *Treron phoenicopterus* 33 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in most of Himalayas and northwest. **ID** Large size, grey cap and greenish-yellow forehead and throat, broad olive-yellow collar, pale greyish-green upperparts, mauve shoulder patch, yellowish band at base of tail, and yellow legs and feet. Sexes are similar, although female is duller. *T. p. chlorigaster* and *T. p. phillipsi* occurring in peninsular India and Sri Lanka have greenish-yellow belly and flanks almost concolorous with yellow of breast. Belly and flanks are grey in the northern subspecies (*T. p. phoenicopterus*) and clearly demarcated from breast. Intermediates occur. **Voice** Similar to that of Orange-breasted. **HH** Habits similar to Orange-breasted. Deciduous forest and fruiting trees around villages and cultivation.



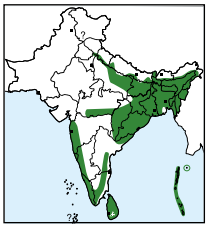
Pin-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron apicauda* 42 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Large green pigeon with extended and pointed central tail feathers. Grey tail (with greenish tip to central feathers), contrasting with lime-green rump and uppertail-coverts, are additional features from female Wedge-tailed. Green crown, wing-coverts and back are additional differences from male Wedge-tailed. Has blue cere and bill-base and naked blue lores (lores are feathered on Wedge-tailed). Male has longer central tail feathers, pale orange wash to breast, and more pronounced grey cast to upper mantle compared with female. **Voice** A distinctive, deep, tuneful short melody: *oou…ou-ruu…oo-ru…ou-rooou*. **HH** Habits like Orange-breasted. Tropical and subtropical broadleaved forest.



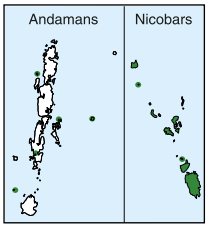
Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon *Treron sphenurus* 33 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male from male Ashy-headed by larger size, long and wedge-shaped tail, less extensive maroon patch on upperparts (confined to inner wing-coverts, scapulars and lower mantle), darker olive-green back and rump, and only indistinct, fine yellow edges to greater coverts and tertials. In flight, shows more uniform tail, lacking pale grey terminal band of Ashy-headed. Orange wash to crown, and very long pale cinnamon undertail-coverts are further differences. Female is mainly green, lacking orange coloration to crown and breast and maroon on upperparts of male. Undertail-coverts are yellowish-white with grey-green centres. From female Ashy-headed by differences in tail shape and colour, lack of prominent yellow in wing and uniform green head (lacking grey crown). Tail shape, maroon on upperparts (male), and dull olive-green rump, uppertail-coverts and central tail feathers are best distinctions from Pin-tailed. **Voice** Series of mellow whistles like other green pigeons, but deeper with more hooting than Thick-billed. **HH** Habits like those of Orange-breasted, but less gregarious than other *Treron*. Subtropical and temperate broadleaved forest.



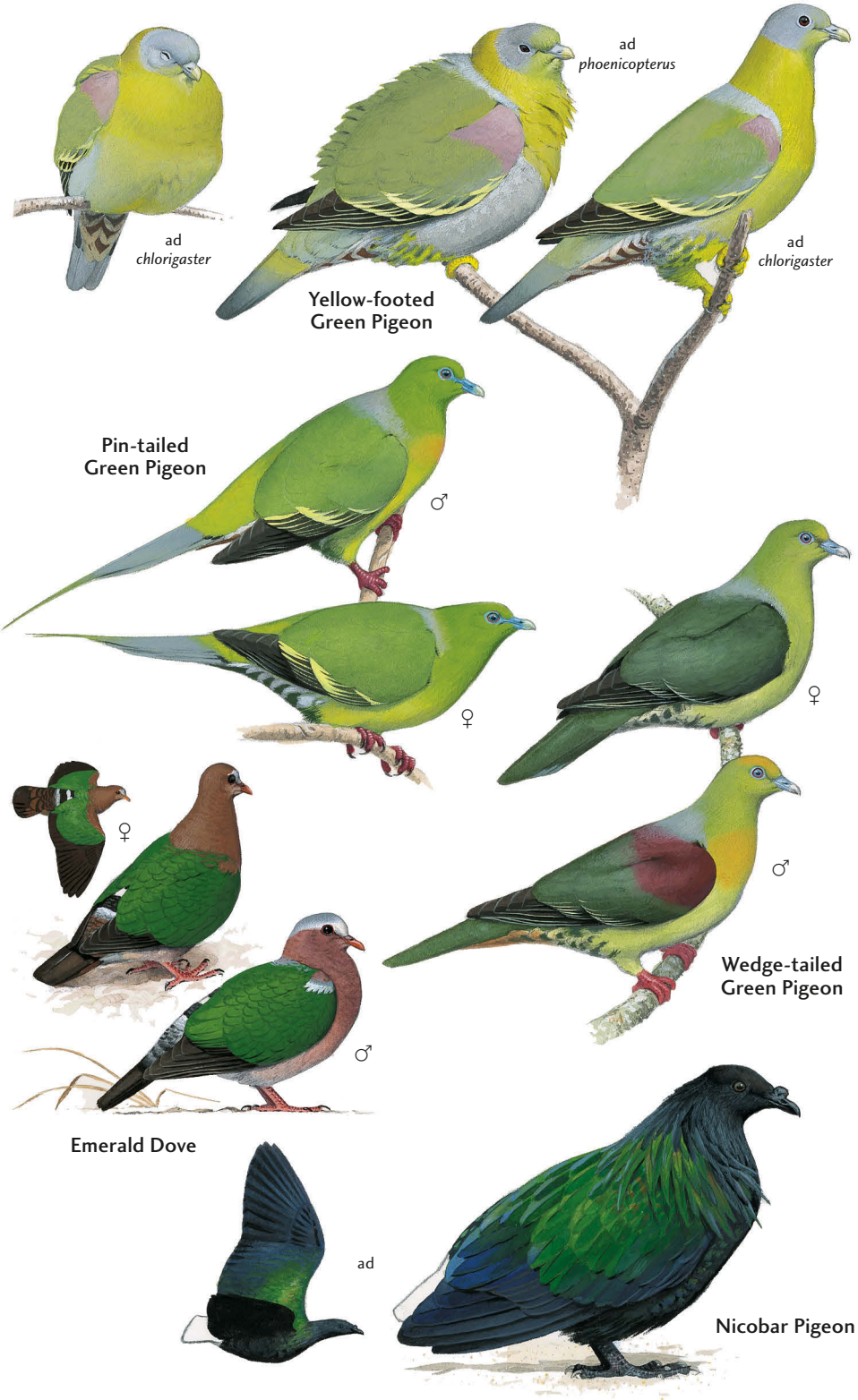
Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* 27 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in most of northwest. **ID** Stocky, broad-winged, short-tailed pigeon with emerald-green upperparts. Typically very rapid in flight, and allows only brief views on being flushed from forest floor, when shows black-and-white banding on back. Male has grey crown, white forehead and supercilium, and deep vinaceous-pink head sides and underparts; has white shoulder patch. Female is warm brown on crown, neck and underparts, has forehead and supercilium suffused with grey, and shoulder patch is generally warm brown. Juvenile resembles female, but has dark grey barring on buffy-white forehead, narrow buff fringes (and some dark subterminal bars) to neck and underparts, dark brown tertials with chestnut tips, brown primaries with chestnut edges and tips, rufous-brown rump, and brownish bill. Male *C. i. robinsoni* of Sri Lanka has grey of crown extending as broad line down sides of neck to upper mantle. **Voice** A mournful booming *tk-hoon…tk-hoon*. **HH** Moist tropical and subtropical broadleaved forest.



Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica* 41 cm

Resident. Mainly Nicobars. **ID** A stocky, broad-winged, short-tailed pigeon. At rest, adult has long blue-black, metallic green and copper neck hackles which extend across mantle, metallic green-and-bronze back and wing-coverts, and white tail. Bill has small 'horn' at base. Juvenile is duller, lacks neck hackles, and has a blackish tail. Immature has hackles, but tail remains black. **Voice** Typically silent. **HH** Dense broadleaved, evergreen forest.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chlorigaster
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phoenicopterus
Yellow-footed
Green Pigeon
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chlorigaster
Pin-tailed
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Wedge-tailed
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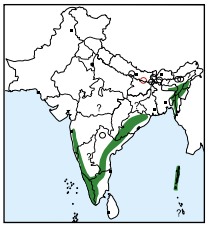
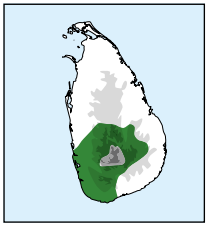
Emerald Dove
ad
Nicobar Pigeon



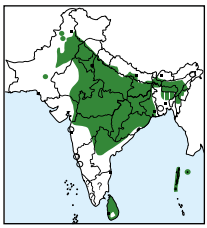
Vernal Hanging Parrot *Loriculus vernalis* 14 cm

Resident. Mainly NE and E India, Western Ghats and Bangladesh. **ID** Small (sparrow-sized), stocky green parrot with red rump and uppertail-coverts and red bill. Adult has yellowish-white iris. Male has turquoise throat patch, which is lacking or much reduced in female. Immature similar to female, but red rump and uppertail-coverts are mixed with green, and has brown iris. **Voice** Has a distinctive di- or trisyllabic rasping flight call *de-zeez-zeet*; occasionally given when at rest. **HH** Spends most of day in tree tops. Has short, rapid wing-beats followed by a brief pause, resulting in undulations. Broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forest.



Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot *Loriculus beryllinus* 14 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Similar to Vernal Hanging Parrot, but has larger bill, crimson forehead and crown, and golden-orange cast to nape and mantle. Has turquoise wash on throat (as Vernal). Immature has greyish-green forehead, orange cast to green crown (with a few patches of red), and a faint turquoise wash to throat. **Voice** As Vernal. **HH** Habits as Vernal. Broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forest.

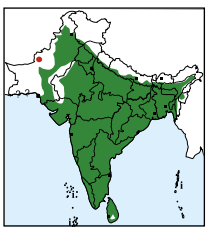


Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* 53 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in W Pakistan. **ID** From Rose-ringed by combination of larger size, maroon shoulder patch, and massive bill. Deeper, more raucous call and slower and more laboured flight are additional pointers. Male has black chin stripe joining pink and turquoise hind collar, both of which are lacking on female and immature. Immature has less distinct maroon shoulder patch and shorter tail. **Voice** Gives a loud guttural *keeak* or *kee-ah,* deeper and more raucous than that of Rose-ringed. **HH** Flocks in large numbers. Flies with deliberate wing-beats accompanied by a harsh, loud scream. Deciduous forest and well-wooded areas.

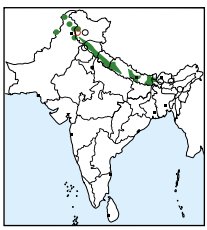
Grey-headed Parakeet *Psittacula finschii* 36 cm

Resident. NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Compared to Slaty-headed, has paler ashy-grey head, yellowish-green wash to upperparts (pronounced on nape), paler green underparts, and lilac-blue (greener on Slaty-headed) tail with paler yellowish-cream tip. Female similar to male but has darker green mantle, and lacks maroon shoulder patch. Larger than female and imm. Blossom-headed; has longer tail with larger yellowish-white tip, darker grey head with black chin stripe, marked blue-green collar, and larger bill. Imm. has brownish-green head, later becoming dull slate-grey, lacks black chin stripe and half-collar of adult; not separable from imm. Slaty-headed. **Voice** Loud, shrill whistles: *sweet... sweet, swit* etc. **HH** Habits like Slaty-headed's. Hill forest.



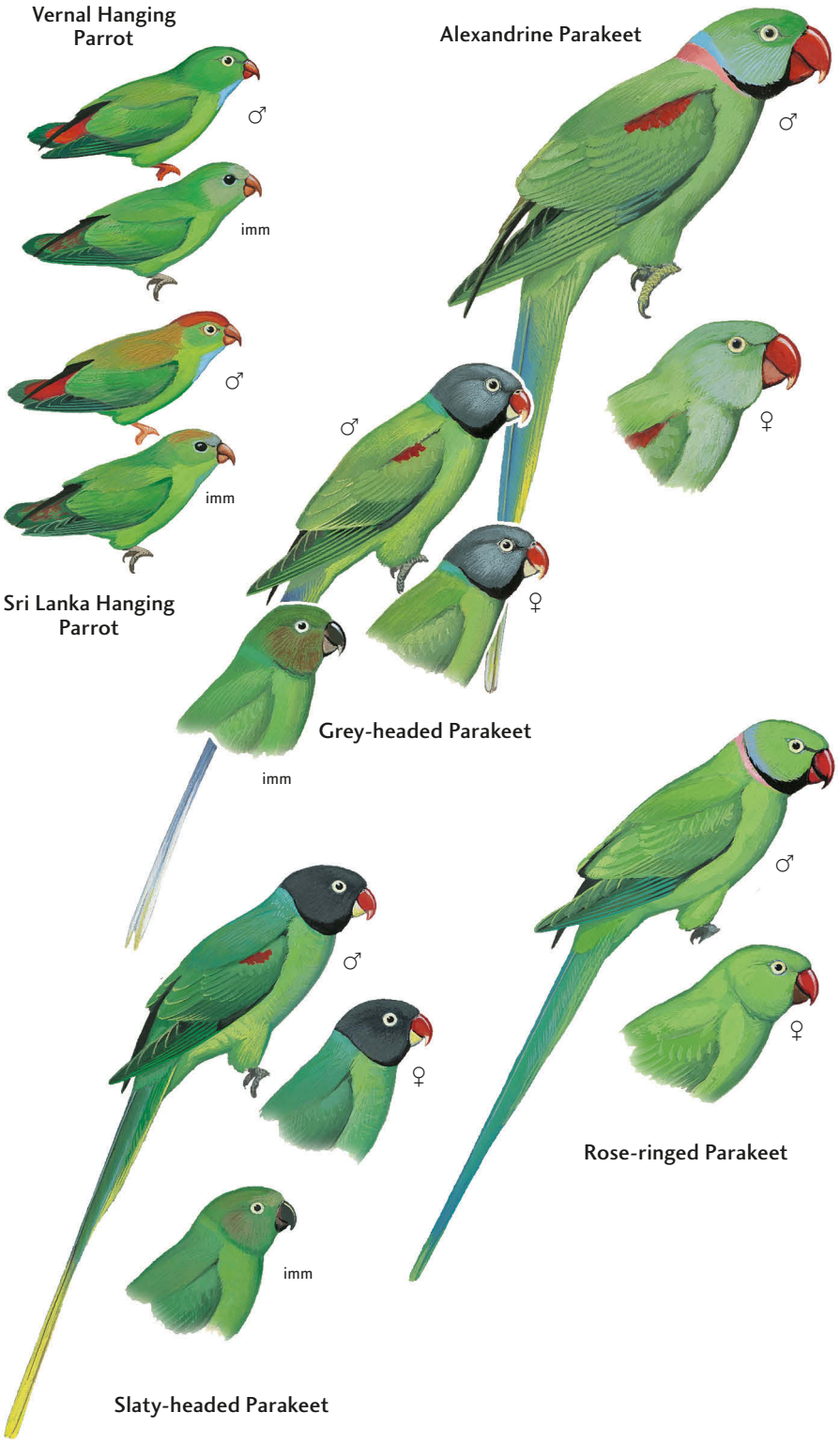
Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* 42 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** From Alexandrine by smaller size, lack of maroon shoulder patch, and smaller bill. Dark blue-green (rather than pale yellowish) dorsal aspect of tail is a further feature. Male has black chin stripe joining pink hind collar. Female lacks the chin stripe and collar, and is all green (with indistinct pale green collar). **Voice** A shrill, loud and variable *kee-ah,* higher-pitched and less guttural than Alexandrine's. **HH** Has enormous communal roosts in trees. Deciduous forest, wooded areas and cultivation. **AN** Ring-necked Parakeet.



Slaty-headed Parakeet *Psittacula himalayana* 41 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Adult has grey head, stout red bill, and yellow-tipped tail. From below, underside of tail is strikingly yellow. Male has maroon shoulder patch, lacking in female. Larger than female Plum-headed; head is a darker slate-grey with black chin stripe and half-collar, has a stouter red bill with pale yellow lower mandible, lacks yellowish collar, and has yellow (rather than white) tip to the tail. Immature is similar to female and immature Rose-ringed but has darker, dull green head and yellow tip to tail (may not be apparent on younger birds). See Grey-headed Parakeet for differences. **Voice** Shrill *tooi... tooi* call. **HH** Agile in flight, with flock twisting through trees in unison. Hill forest and well-wooded areas, especially near orchards and cultivation.


Vernal Hanging Parrot
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Sri Lanka Hanging Parrot
Alexandrine Parakeet
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Grey-headed Parakeet
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Slaty-headed Parakeet
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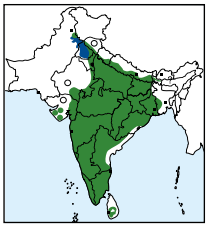
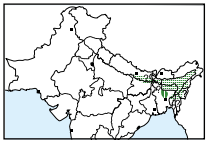
Rose-ringed Parakeet



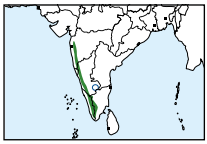
Plum-headed Parakeet *Psittacula cyanocephala* 36 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in NW and parts of NE subcontinent. **ID** Male has plum-red and purplish-blue head, yellow upper mandible, and white-tipped blue-green tail. Female has greyish head; smaller-bodied and with daintier head and bill than Slaty-headed, with lilac cast to paler grey head (lacking black chin stripe and half-collar), yellow upper mandible, yellowish collar and upper breast, and white tip to tail. Juvenile has green head with buffish forehead, lores and cheeks. **Voice** A shrill *tooi-tooi*, higher-pitched and less harsh than Slaty-headed. **HH** Forest and well-wooded areas.



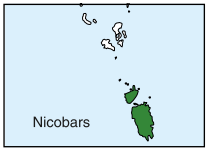
Blossom-headed Parakeet *Psittacula roseata* 36 cm

Resident. Mainly NE Indian hills and Bangladesh. **ID** Male from male Plum-headed by paler pink and lilac-blue on head. Also lacks turquoise collar, and has pale yellow tip to tail. Female similar to female Plum-headed, but has paler greyish-blue head, less distinct collar, maroon shoulder patch, pale yellow tail-tip; from Grey-headed by smaller size, shorter tail with smaller yellow tip, paler greyish-blue head, indistinct collar, lack of black chin stripe. **Voice** As Plum-headed's. **HH** Open forest.



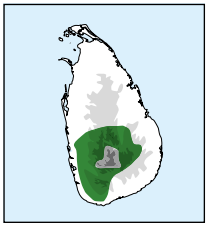
Malabar Parakeet *Psittacula columboides* 38 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** Male has blue-grey head with green lores and cheeks, blue-green collar, pale blue-grey breast and mantle with variable pinkish tinge, blue primaries and yellow-tipped blue tail. Female similar, but has blackish bill, lacks blue-green collar, and has greener upperparts and underparts. Immature is greener, with indistinct dark collar; head variably washed with dull turquoise and blue-grey; blue in wings and yellow-tipped blue tail help separate from Rose-ringed. **Voice** Loud jarring notes, coarser than other parakeets. **HH** Well-wooded areas.



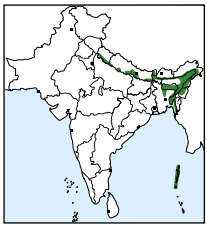
Nicobar Parakeet *Psittacula caniceps* 61 cm

Resident. Great and Little Nicobar. **ID** Male is mainly yellowish-green, with buffish-grey head, black forehead and broad black chin stripe, and blackish flight feathers with bluish edges. Female has bluish-grey tinge to crown and nape, and black (rather than red) upper mandible. **Voice** A loud, raucous corvid-like *kraan… kraan*. **HH** Tall forest.



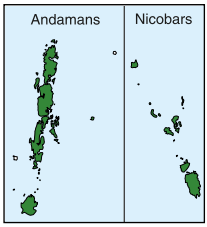
Layard's Parakeet *Psittacula calthropae* 31 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Male has bluish-grey coloration to head and mantle, with green lores and cheeks, broad green collar, green wings (with brighter lime-green lesser coverts), green underparts, violet-grey lower back and rump, and violet-blue tail with yellowish tip. Female is similar, but upper mandible is blackish. Immature is mainly green, with slightly darker head; violet-blue cast to lower back and rump, and yellow-tipped blue-green tail help separate from Rose-ringed. **Voice** A loud, harsh chattering scream. **HH** Forest edges, plantations and gardens.



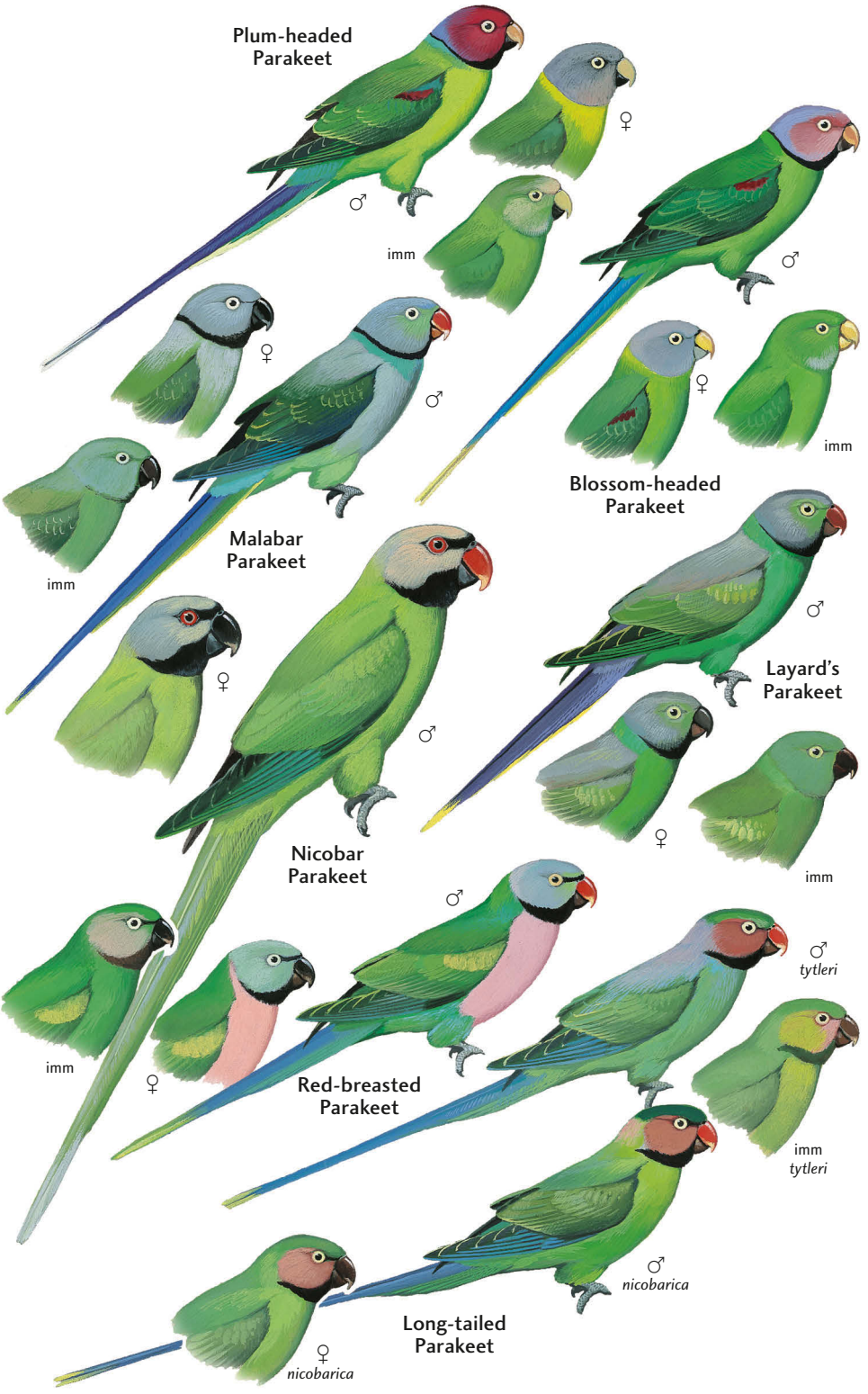
Red-breasted Parakeet *Psittacula alexandri* 38 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male has lilac-grey crown and ear-coverts (with variable pinkish wash), broad black chin stripe, deep lilac-pink breast and belly, greenish-yellow lesser wing-coverts, and yellowish-tipped blue-green tail. Female is similar, but has blue-green tinge to head, purer peach-pink breast, and black upper mandible. Immature is duller, with green underparts and orange-red bill. **Voice** A short, sharp nasal *kaink*. **HH** Open forest and secondary growth.



Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda* 46–48 cm

Resident. Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** Male has pinkish-red cheeks, broad black chin stripe, variable pale turquoise and lilac wash to green of mantle, and blue central tail and edges of primaries. Female is similar, but has black upper mandible; also is uniformly green above, and has paler, peach-coloured cheeks. Immature is uniform green, with less distinct cheek stripe; has touch of pinkish to ear-coverts, and yellowish edges to primaries. *P. l. nicobarica* (Nicobars) differs from *P. l. tytleri* (Andamans) in being larger and more yellow-green on the upperparts. **Voice** Similar to Rose-ringed's. **HH** Cultivation, gardens and forest.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Long-tailed Parakeet
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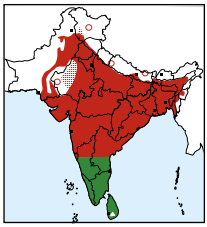
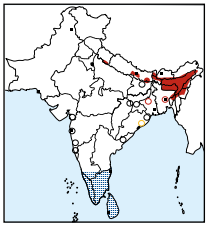


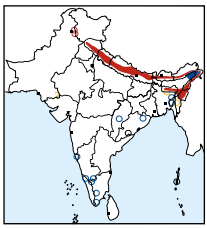
Jacobin Cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus* 33 cm

Widespread resident and partial migrant. **ID** Black and white with crest. Has white patch at base of primaries, and prominent white tips to tail feathers. Juvenile has browner upperparts, grey wash to throat and upper breast, and buffish wash to rest of underparts. Has smaller crest than adult, with smaller white wing patch, and paler bill. **Voice** A metallic *piu... piu... pee-pee piu, pee-pee piu*. **HH** Conspicuous, often perching in the open. Chiefly arboreal, but often also searches for food in low bushes and sometimes hopping on ground. Forest, well-wooded areas, also bushes in semi-desert. **AN** Pied Cuckoo.



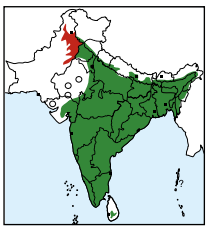
Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus* 47 cm

Breeds in Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh; winter visitor to S India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Prominent crest, whitish collar, chestnut wings, and orange wash to throat and breast. Long black tail has narrow greyish-white feather tips. Lacks white in wing. Juvenile has shorter crest, rufous fringes to upperparts, buff collar, paler throat and breast, broad buff tips to rectrices, and paler bill. Immature is similar to adult, but retains some buff tips to scapulars, coverts and tail feathers. **Voice** A series of double metallic whistles, *breep breep*. **HH** Arboreal and rather retiring, favours the canopy and usually inconspicuous when perched among foliage. Often descends to the lower storey of bushes to feed. Broadleaved forest.



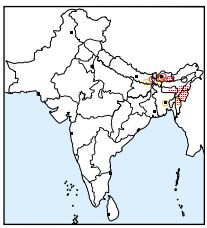
Large Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides* 38 cm

Breeds in Himalayas and NE India; scattered winter records in subcontinent. **ID** Larger than Common Hawk Cuckoo, with browner mantle (contrasting with slate-grey head), blackish chin, grey streaking on throat and breast, irregular rufous breast band, broad dark brown barring on underparts, and broader and stronger dark tail banding. Underwing-coverts are white, barred with dark brown. Juvenile has strongly barred rather than spotted underparts, and with broader tail-banding. Immature has darker slate-grey head than immature Common, with blackish chin and grey throat streaking. **Voice** A shrill *pee-pee-ah... pee-pee-ah*, which rises in pitch to an hysterical crescendo. **HH** Usually keeps well hidden among foliage of the forest canopy, even when calling. *Accipiter*-like in flight; flies low with a few fast wing-beats followed by a glide, then rises up abruptly to land in a tree. Broadleaved forest.



Common Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx varius* 34 cm

Widespread resident and partial migrant. **ID** Smaller than Large, with whitish or greyish chin and throat, uniform grey upperparts, more rufous on underparts, indistinct barring on belly and flanks, and narrower tail banding. Underwing-coverts are rufous and only faintly barred. In juvenile, flanks typically less heavily marked than in Large, with spots or chevron marks rather than barring (although some very similar), while rufous tail banding and tail tip are typically brighter and more clearly defined. *H. v. ciceliae* of Sri Lanka is darker grey on upperparts, with stronger streaking on throat and dark barring on underparts (and is very like Large, although tail-banding is narrower). **Voice** Call as Large, but more shrill and manic. Becomes more vocal during hot weather. **HH** Habits similar to those of Large, but more often seen because it frequents less thickly wooded country. Well-wooded country.



Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Hierococcyx fugax* 29 cm

Resident or summer visitor. Mainly E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Smaller than Common, with stouter bill. Upperparts are a darker slate-grey, with slate-grey chin, more extensive rufous on underparts, and unbarred white belly and flanks. Throat and breast may show dark grey streaking. Has more pronounced rufous tip to tail, and frequently shows a single pale inner tertial (on both wings on some) (not present on Common). Juvenile has darker brown and more uniform upperparts than juvenile Common, and broader (squarer) spots on underparts. Immature has dark grey chin, ear-coverts and crown, rufous barring to upperparts, and strongly streaked underparts. **Voice** Call is a shrill *gee-whiz* etc. **HH** Usually keeps to low trees or bushes, but moves higher in trees when calling. Broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forest.

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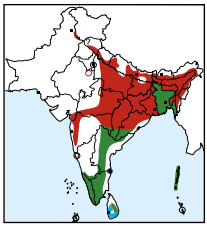
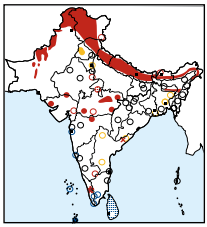


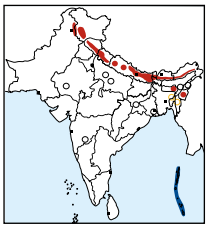
Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* 33 cm

Breeds in Himalayas and E subcontinent. **ID** From Eurasian and Oriental by browner mantle, and broader, more widely spaced black barring on underparts. Tail has broader (diffuse) dark subterminal band, broader white barring on outer tail feathers and larger white spots on central feathers. Eyes brown or reddish-brown (yellow in Eurasian Cuckoo; yellow or brown in Oriental Cuckoo). Female has rufous-buff wash to base of grey breast, and rufous suffusion to whitish barring of lower breast. There is no hepatic female morph. Juvenile distinctive with broad and irregular white tips to feathers of crown, nape, scapulars and wing-coverts; throat and breast are creamy-white with irregular brown markings, and barring on rest of underparts is broader and more irregular than on Eurasian and Oriental. **Voice** A descending whistle, *kwer-kwah... kwah-kurh*. **HH** Frequents the tops of forest trees and foliage of the canopy; sometimes flies hawk-like above the forest. Often calls at night during the breeding season. Forest and well-wooded country.



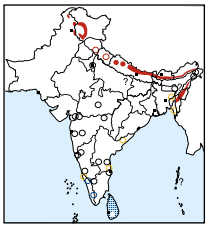
Eurasian Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* 32–34 cm

Breeds in hills of Pakistan, Himalayas, and N, NE and C India; scattered winter records. **ID** Almost identical to Oriental and best distinguished by song; for subtle differences, see that species. Non-hepatic female has rufous wash to lower border of grey breast. Hepatic female is rufous-brown above and whitish below, and strongly barred all over with dark brown. Juvenile is very variable, some superficially resembling grey adult, others hepatic female, with whitish fringes to upperparts and white nape patch. **Voice** Call a *cuck-oo... cuck-oo*. **HH** Habits similar to those of Indian Cuckoo, but less vocal at night. Often perches conspicuously in the open when calling in the breeding season. Forest and well-wooded country. **AN** Common Cuckoo.



Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* 30–32 cm

Breeds in Himalayas and NE India; winter visitor to Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** Compared with Eurasian, has broader black barring on buffish-white (rather than pure white) underparts, and darker grey upperparts, sometimes showing contrast with paler head, and can be distinctly smaller. Female and juvenile, like Eurasian, occur as grey and rufous morphs, and have broader black barring, especially on breast, back, rump and tail than in Eurasian. **Voice** A resonant *ho... ho... ho... ho*. **HH** Habits similar to those of Indian, but usually keeps hidden among foliage and is less noisy at night. Forest and well-wooded country. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Oriental Cuckoo *C. optatus*.



Lesser Cuckoo *Cuculus poliocephalus* 25 cm

Breeds in Himalayas and NE India; passage migrant in peninsula, winters in Sri Lanka. **ID** Smaller than Himalayan, (although Himalayan can be similar-sized) with finer bill. Plumage almost identical, but has darker rump and uppertail coverts, contrasting less with tail. Hepatic morph of female prevails, and is typically more rufous than hepatic Himalayan (some with almost unmarked rufous crown, nape, rump and uppertail-coverts). Juvenile like juvenile Himalayan but with dark grey-brown upperparts and whiter (broadly barred) underparts. **Voice** A strong, cheerful *pretty-peel-lay-ka-beet*. **HH** Habits similar to those of Indian Cuckoo. Frequently calls noisily in flight, often above the canopy as well as when perched. Forest and well-wooded country.

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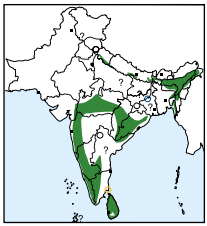
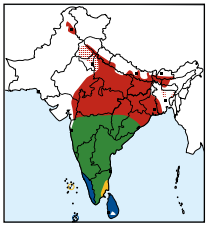


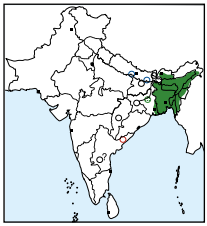
Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* 24 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** White supercilium (which is finely barred with black, and encircles brown ear-coverts), finely barred white underparts, and fine and regular dark barring on upperparts. Juvenile has broader (and more diffuse) barring on underparts, and crown and nape have some buff barring. **Voice** A shrill, whistled *pi-pi-pew-pew*. **HH** Favours the bare branches of treetops, from which it calls, usually holding the tail depressed, wings drooping and rump feathers fluffed out. Forest and wooded country.



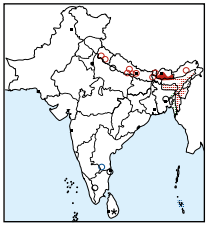
Grey-bellied Cuckoo *Cacomantis passerinus* 23 cm

Summers in Himalayas; widespread resident or winter visitor farther south; unrecorded in northwest. **ID** Grey adult is grey with white vent and undertail-coverts. On hepatic female, upperparts are bright rufous with crown and nape only sparsely barred, and tail is unbarred (compare with Banded Bay and Plaintive Cuckoos). Juvenile varies. Some have uniform brownish-black upperparts (without distinct barring), dusky grey underparts with indistinct and diffuse buffish-grey barring mainly on belly and flanks (some are more heavily barred on underparts), and tail dark grey-brown with each feather finely notched with greyish-white. Other are barred with rufous on upperparts, and underparts are similar to hepatic female; tail is dark brown, barred with rufous (and is similarly patterned to tail of Plaintive). Intermediates occur, e.g. with uniform grey upperparts and strong rufous barring on tail. **Voice** A clear *pee-pipee-pee... pipee-pee* ascending in scale and higher-pitched with each repetition. **HH** Keeps mainly to the leafy tops of trees and bushes; sometimes descends briefly to the ground to pick up caterpillars, or sallies after insects. Very active and restless, repeatedly flying rapidly to different vantage points and calling; often flies quite long distances between resting places. When calling holds wings loosely, tail depressed and rump feathers fluffed out. Wooded country.



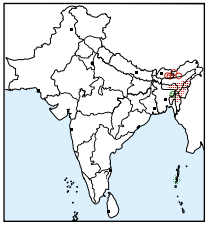
Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* 23 cm

Resident. NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Adult has orange underparts. On hepatic female, compared with Grey-bellied, upperparts are duller rufous-brown with more regular dark barring, and tail is strongly barred. Juvenile has bold streaking on rufous-orange head and breast, and is distinct from hepatic and juvenile Grey-bellied. **Voice** A mournful whistle *tay... ta... tee*; also a repeated *tay... ta... ta... tay*. **HH** Habits very similar to those of Grey-bellied. Forest and wooded country.



Asian Emerald Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx maculatus* 18 cm

Summer visitor, mainly to E Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh; winter visitor to Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** Male has emerald-green upperparts. Female has rufous-orange crown and nape and unbarred bronze-green mantle and wings. Has yellow bill with dark tip. Juvenile similar to female, but with rufous barred upperparts and rufous-orange wash to throat and breast. **Voice** Loud descending *kee-kee-kee-kee*. **HH** Usually keeps to the leafy canopy of tall trees, but on arrival in spring often flies about conspicuously. Very active, moving rapidly from branch to branch and making sallies to capture flying insects. Has a habit of perching along a branch, rather than across it. Flight is fast and direct. Evergreen forest.



Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* 17 cm

Resident or summer visitor, mainly to NE Indian hills. **ID** Male has purple upperparts. Female has uniform bronze-brown upperparts, with greenish tinge, and white face and underparts with brownish-green barring. Male has orange bill; orangish with darker tip in female. Juvenile similar to juvenile Asian Emerald, but upperparts especially wings more heavily barred with rufous, and lacks rufous-orange wash to throat. **Voice** A disyllabic and repeated *che-wick*, particularly in flight, and an accelerating trill. **HH** Habits are very poorly known; presumably similar to those of Asian Emerald. Secondary evergreen forest and orchards.

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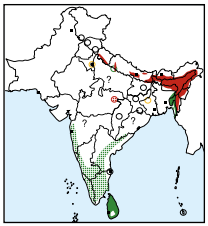
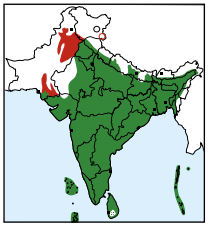


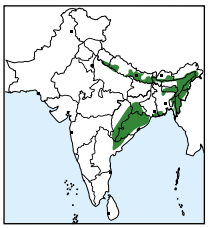
Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* 25 cm

Resident. Hills of C and SW India and Sri Lanka; also summer visitor Himalayan foothills and NE India. **ID** Open forest and shade trees in tea plantations. Adult is glossy black, except for fine white barring on very long undertail-coverts, white thighs, and tiny white patch on nape (difficult to see in field). Tail varies from square-ended to forked. Best told from a drongo by fine, downcurved black bill and white-barred undertail-coverts. Juvenile is similar, but dull black, spotted with white. **Voice** Repeated series of ascending whistles, which vary in pitch and speed. **HH** Resembles a drongo, especially when perched upright, but is less active and flies like a cuckoo. Perches on a bare branch when calling, but otherwise usually keeps in canopy. Forest and well-wooded areas.



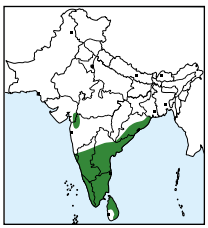
Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* 43 cm

Mainly resident. Widespread. **ID** Large, with long and broad tail. Male is glossy black (with green iridescence), with a dull lime-green bill and brilliant red eye. Female is brown above (with faint green gloss), spotted and barred with white and buff, and white below, strongly barred with dark brown. Also has striking red eye. Juvenile is blackish, with white or buff tips to wing-coverts and tertials, and variable white barring on underparts; tail is black, although shows pronounced rufous barring on some. **Voice** A loud, rising and increasingly anxious repeated *ko-el…ko-el…ko-el* and a bubbling more rapid repeated *koel... koel*. **HH** Typically keeps concealed in dense foliage when not feeding, although may sun itself from a treetop in early mornings. Open woodland, gardens and cultivation.



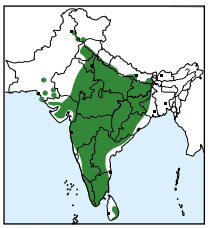
Green-billed Malkoha *Rhopodytes tristis* 38 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE and E India and Bangladesh. **ID** Large and very long-tailed. Greyish-green in coloration, with lime-green bill, red eye-patch, white-streaked supercilium, and broad white tips to tail feathers. **Voice** Gives a low croaking *ko… ko… ko,* and a chuckle when flushed. **HH** Rather shy; usually keeps out of sight. Creeps and clambers unobtrusively through branches low down in thick vegetation. Dense broadleaved forest and thickets. Globally threatened. **TN** Formerly placed in *Phaenicophaeus*.



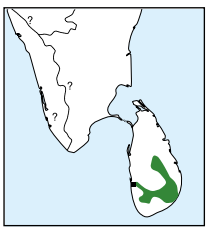
Blue-faced Malkoha *Rhopodytes viridirostris* 39 cm

Resident. Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. **ID** From the larger Green-billed Malkoha (which it replaces in S India and Sri Lanka) in having blue rather than red eye-patch, darker green coloration to head and nape (lacking pale-streaked supercilium), darker grey throat and breast with buffish streaking, distinctly buffish lower belly and vent, and broader white tips to tail feathers (especially apparent from below). **Voice** Makes a low croaking *kra*. **HH** Habits similar to Green-billed's. Bushes, thorn scrub and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Phaenicophaeus*.



Sirkeer Malkoha *Taccocua leschenaultii* 42 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in NE and parts of NW subcontinent. **ID** Adult mainly sandy grey-brown, with yellow-tipped red bill and white-edged dark facial skin giving masked appearance. Black shaft streaking on crown, mantle and breast, throat buff, belly rufous-buff. Has long, graduated, white-tipped tail. Immature very similar, but has indistinct buff fringes to wing-coverts, scapulars and tertials. Juvenile has broad dark brown streaking on head, mantle, throat and breast, and buff fringes to mantle, wing-coverts and tertials. **Voice** Normally silent. **HH** Largely terrestrial. Sometimes clambers among shrubs and small trees or hops from branch to branch. Thorn scrub and acacia bushes; also semi-desert. **TN** Formerly placed in *Phaenicophaeus*.



Red-faced Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus* 46 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** A very large, dark green malkoha. Adult has stout apple-green bill, large red face patch, whitish chin and malar stripe contrasting with black throat and breast, white flecking on crown and nape, striking white belly, and very broad white tips to tail feathers. Eyes are dark in male and white in female. Juvenile has smaller red face patch, brown streaking on crown and nape, and extensive greyish-white streaking on throat, neck sides and breast. **Voice** Usually silent. **HH** Frequents the tree canopy. Typically threads its way through foliage, creepers and branch. Frequently associates with mixed feeding flocks of other species. Dense, tall, broadleaved mainly evergreen forest. Globally threatened.

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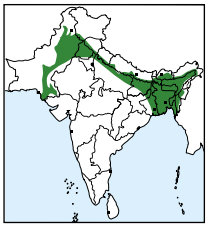
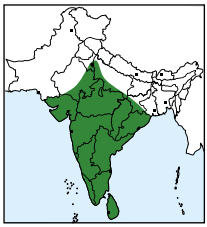


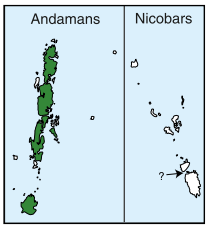
Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* 48 cm

Resident. Pakistan east through base of Himalayas and N Gangetic Plain to Bangladesh. **ID** Adult from adult breeding Lesser Coucal by much larger size, black underwing-coverts (difficult to see in the field), and brighter and more uniform chestnut wings. Juvenile has brownish-black head and body, with chestnut spotting on crown and nape (becoming barred on mantle), and diffuse whitish barring on entire underparts; chestnut-brown coverts and flight feathers are barred with dark brown, and tail is narrowly barred with buff or greyish-white. Immature resembles adult, although head and body are duller black and has barred (juvenile) flight feathers and tail. **Voice** A deep, resonant and primate-like *hoop-hoop-hoop-hoop-hoop-hoop*, descending slightly at first and then rising towards the end of the series. **HH** Walks sedately with tail held horizontal, or skulks in dense vegetation. Tall grassland, scrub, groves and thick cover adjacent to wetlands.



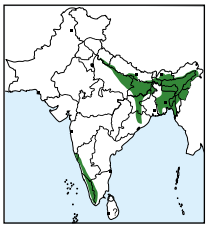
Southern Coucal *Centropus* (*sinensis*) *parroti* 48 cm

Resident. Peninsula in Gangetic Plain east to Orissa and south to Sri Lanka. **ID** From Greater by smaller size, blue-green (rather than purplish) gloss to black head and body, less rufous on mantle, and brownish forehead and throat. Unlike Greater, juvenile plumage is similar to adult, with head and body dull blackish and lacking prominent barring. Chestnut wings are duller, and contrast less with body than in adult, and coverts and tertials are marked with black (and therefore more closely resembles Green-billed Coucal). **Voice** A short series of resonant, piping hoots, the first note shortest, the rest of the phrase rising slightly and then dropping off again. **HH** Habits like Greater's. Open woods, thick scrub, grassland and dense cover in gardens.



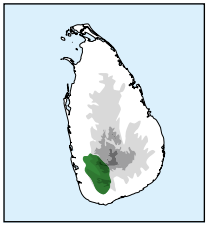
Brown Coucal *Centropus andamanensis* 48 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** The only coucal occurring in the Andamans. Similar to Greater, with striking chestnut wings, but head and body are fawn-brown, with darker brown rump and tail. Some have paler, dirty buff head and underbody, and greyish-buff tail which is distinctly darker towards tip. Juvenile is indistinctly and diffusely barred with brown on head, mantle and entire underparts. **Voice** Utters a rapid series of *hoop* notes which start slowly and weakly and increase in intensity before ending abruptly. **HH** Habits like Greater's. Forest edges, gardens and cultivation.



Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* 33 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE, E and SW India, and Bangladesh. **ID** Smaller than Greater, with stouter bill, duller chestnut mantle and wings (including browner tertials and primary tips), and chestnut underwing-coverts. Note 'Southern' can be much closer in size. Eyes are dark (red in Greater and 'Southern'). Often shows buff streaking on some scapulars and wing-coverts (unlike Greater and 'Southern'). Adult non-breeding has dark brown head and mantle with prominent buff shaft steaks, and dark brown and rufous barring on rump and very long uppertail-coverts. Wings and tail are as adult breeding. Juvenile is similar to adult non-breeding, but has less distinct pale shaft streaking on upperparts, dark barring on crown, mantle and back, dark brown barring on wings, and narrow rufous barring on tail. Immature has head and body as adult non-breeding, but wings and tail are barred as on juvenile. **Voice** Makes a series of deep resonant *pwoop-pwoop-pwoop* notes, very similar to Greater, but usually slightly faster and more interrogative, initially ascending, then descending and decelerating. **HH** Habits similar to Greater's. Tall grassland, reedbeds and shrubberies.



Green-billed Coucal *Centropus chlororhynchos* 43 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** From 'Southern', which also occurs in Sri Lanka, by green rather than black bill and in distinctive call. Head and underbody are duller and browner in coloration compared with 'Southern'. Wings are maroon-brown and contrast less with head and body. Eyes are dark (red in 'Southern'). Immature has dark bill and eyes and is very similar to 'Southern'. **Voice** Similar to Greater's but usually only two or three syllables and is deeper with a sonorous mournful quality *hooo-pooop* or *hooo-poo-pooop*. **HH** Habits similar to Greater's but very secretive. Tall damp forest with dense undergrowth of bamboo and cane brakes.

Greater Coucal
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Southern Coucal
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Brown Coucal
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Lesser Coucal
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Green-billed Coucal
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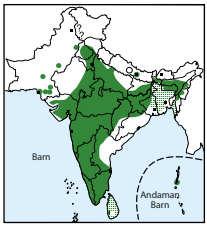
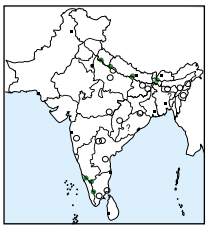


Barn Owl *Tyto alba* 36 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Readily identified throughout much of region by combination of unmarked white face and contrasting black eyes, white to golden-buff underparts finely spotted with black, and golden-buff and grey upperparts which are finely spotted with black and white. Wings and tail appear uniform in flight, lacking any prominent tail barring or wing patches. **Voice** A variety of eerie, screeching and hissing noises. **HH** Habitation and cultivation.

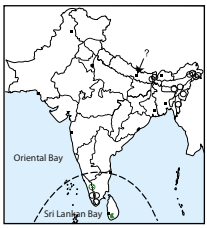
Andaman Barn Owl *Tyto* (*alba*) *deroepstorffi* 36 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Differs from Barn by having rufous face and underparts (latter with extensive dark spotting), and much darker upperparts which are heavily marked with rufous and dark brown. Tail is barred. Bill larger, and legs and feet stronger-looking, compared with Barn. In flight, shorter wings and tail, and rufous underwing coverts. **Voice** Calls include a high-pitched, abrupt screech. **HH** Cultivation and along coasts.



Eastern Grass Owl *Tyto longimembris* 36 cm

Resident. NE and SW India, and S Nepal. **ID** Similar to Barn in size and structure, with dark eyes, and whitish face and underparts. Upperparts are darker and contrast more with underparts than on Barn, being more heavily marked with dark brown (especially on crown and scapulars) and with golden-buff (particularly on nape). Further, has dark barring on flight feathers, with prominent golden-buff patch at base of primaries contrasting with dark carpel patch and primary tips, and has dark-barred white or buff tail which usually contrasts with dark uppertail-coverts. Legs longer and feathered only half way down tarsus (feathered to feet in Barn). Mottled, rather than streaked upperparts, lack of prominent streaking on breast, pale bill and black eyes are useful features from Short-eared Owl which may be found in similar habitats. **Voice** Like that of Barn. **HH** Tall grassland. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Grass Owl *T. capensis*.

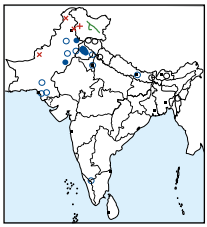


Oriental Bay Owl *Phodilus badius* 29 cm

Resident. NE India. **ID** Stocky, medium-sized owl with short, rounded wings and short tail. Legs are long and feathered to feet. Has distinctive head shape (with wide forehead, and oblong-shaped facial discs which protrude as broad 'ear-tufts'), very large all-dark eyes, white necklace, rich chestnut and buff upperparts spotted and barred with black, vinaceous-pink forehead and facial discs with dark vertical stripe through eye, and vinaceous-pink underparts spotted with black. **Voice** A series of eerie, upward-inflected whistles. **HH** Dense evergreen broadleaved forest.

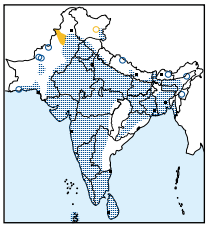
Sri Lanka Bay Owl *Phodilus* (*badius*) *assimilis* 27 cm

Resident. SW India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Similar to Oriental Bay, but upperparts darker brown above, with heavier spotting, golden nape and scapulars, and more pronounced barring on wings and tail. Forehead patch narrower, resulting in wider facial discs, and has broader dark vertical stripe through eye. **Voice** Song is an eerie, gliding whistle *whi-whoo-ee-yo* with the first syllable sometimes lacking, and the middle syllable much higher than the other two. **HH** Dense forest; mangrove edge.



Long-eared Owl *Asio otus* 35–37 cm

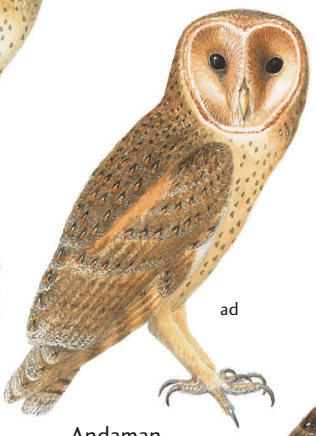
Mainly a winter visitor to Pakistan and NW India; has bred. **ID** From Short-eared at rest by erect ear-tufts, orange-brown coloration to facial discs, orange (rather than yellow) eyes, greyish (rather than buff) background coloration to upperparts, and more heavily streaked belly and flanks. Further differences in flight are orange-buff base coloration to primaries and tail feathers, with more pronounced dark barring, lack of prominent dark carpal patch, and more rounded wings and shorter tail. **Voice** Territorial call of male is a long drawn, subdued *oo* or *hu*. **HH** On passage and in winter frequents stunted trees and poplar plantations.



Short-eared Owl *Asio flammeus* 37–39 cm

Widespread winter visitor and passage migrant, except parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** From Long-eared at rest by short or apparently absent ear-tufts, buffish-white coloration to facial discs, yellow (rather than orange) eyes, buff background coloration to upperparts, and non-existent or indistinct streaking on belly and flanks. Further differences in flight are buffish-white background coloration to primaries and tail, with less prominent dark barring, pronounced dark carpal patch, noticeable white trailing edge to wing, and narrower wings and longer tail. **HH** Open country with scattered bushes, grassland and semi-desert.

Barn Owl



Andaman Barn Owl

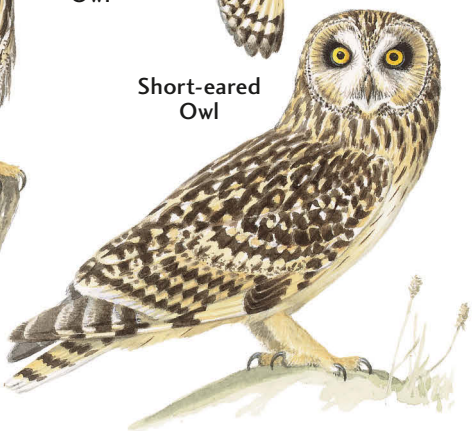
Eastern Grass Owl

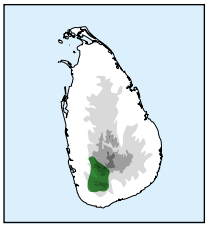
Oriental Bay Owl

Sri Lanka Bay Owl

Long-eared Owl

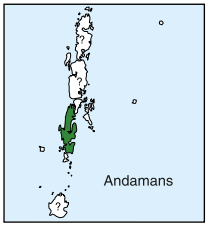
Short-eared Owl





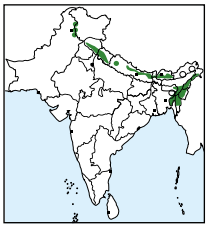
Serendib Scops Owl *Otus thilohoffmanni* 17 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Small owl without true ear-tufts. Uniform rufous upperparts with tiny black spots, facial disc rufous without markings, underparts paler rufous with the black spots, bill whitish, legs pinkish-white, and iris orangey in male and yellow in female. When alert, vertical compression of the facial-disc forms two shorter projections of 'false' ear-tufts. Endemic, fairly rare and local, in wet lowlands to mid hills. **Voice** Song is a short, soft but far-carrying musical *whoo-oh,* with the first syllable rising and the second falling slightly. **HH** Inhabits larger dense rainforest; in pairs. Nocturnal and territorial. Habits poorly Known. Globally Threatened.



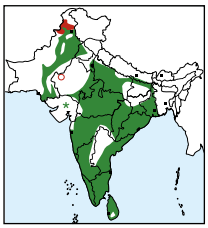
Andaman Scops Owl *Otus balli* 19 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** From Oriental Scops Owl, the only other scops owl in the Andaman Is, by lightly marked upperparts and underparts. Facial disc poorly defined, and has small stubby ear-tufts. Crown, nape and mantle have sparse and indistinct buff and dark brown markings. Underparts are finely vermiculated and spotted with dark brown, and diffusely marked with buff. Has weaker legs and feet than Oriental, and tarsus is partly bare (feathered to feet in Oriental). Bill and claws are yellow. Occurs in brown and rufous morphs. **Voice** Call is an abrupt *hoot... hoot-coorroo*. **HH** Totally nocturnal and habits poorly known. Eats caterpillars and other large insects. Cultivation and around human habitation.



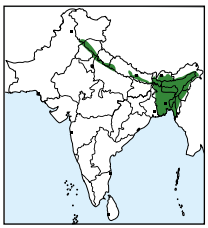
Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus* 20 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From similar species by unstreaked underparts, which are indistinctly spotted with buff and barred with brown, and by unstreaked upperparts which are mottled with buff and brown (with crown and nape usually the most heavily marked). Has poorly defined facial discs, and stubby ear-tufts. Bill and claws are pale. Often shows a paler band on upper mantle (forming diffuse 'collar'). In the W Himalayas (*O. s. huttoni*) are grey or fulvous-brown, while those in the E Himalayas (*O. s. spilocephalus*) are rufous-brown in coloration. **Voice** Call is a repeated double whistle, *toot-too*. **HH** Entirely nocturnal and difficult to see, in common with all other scops owls. Roosts during the day in a tree hollow. Begins calling about an hour before dark, and continues intermittently during the night. Chiefly insectivorous. Dense evergreen broadleaved forest.



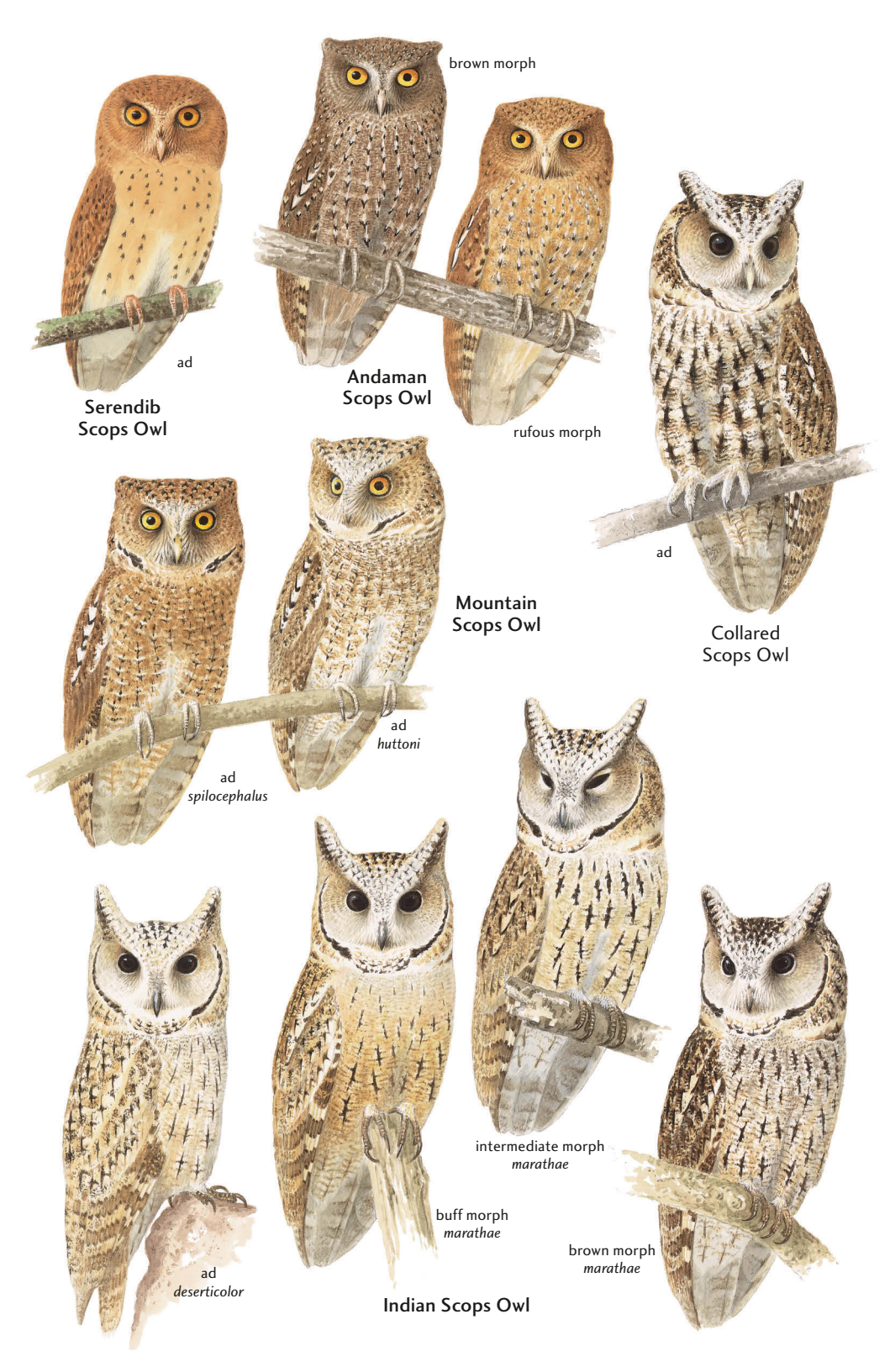
Indian Scops Owl *Otus bakkamoena* 23–25 cm

Widespread resident south of Himalayas. **ID** From Oriental by larger size, prominent buff nuchal collar edged with dark brown, more finely streaked underparts, and buffish (less distinct) scapular spots. Eyes are typically dark orange or brown, although can be yellow (yellow in Oriental). Very variable in coloration: can be pale grey-brown (e.g. in *O. b. deserticolor* from the drier parts of Pakistan) or warm rufous-brown (e.g. in the nominate subspecies of Sri Lanka). Very similar to 'Collared' (some probably indistinguishable), and only safely separated by call (see below). **Voice** Call is a subdued, frog-like *whuk,* with rising inflection repeated at irregular intervals. **HH** Hides by day in a densely foliaged tree, often close against the trunk or in dark tree hollow. Forest and well-wooded areas. **TN** Considered here to be conspecific with the following species as Collared Scops Owl *O. bakkamoena*.



Collared Scops Owl *Otus* (*bakkamoena*) *lettia* 23–25 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and E Bangladesh. **ID** Separated from Indian mainly by call, although this is not considered to be diagnostic; upperparts and underparts are more heavily and irregularly marked with short dark streaks and cross-bars (Indian has finer, longer streaks on upperparts and underparts), and yellowish bill lacks dark tip. **Voice** Call is softer and less staccato *broou* than Indian and has falling inflection. **HH** Habits like Indian. Forest and well-wooded areas.


brown morph
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Serendib
Scops Owl
Andaman
Scops Owl
rufous morph
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Collared
Scops Owl
Mountain
Scops Owl
ad
huttoni
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spilocephalus
intermediate morph
marathae
buff morph
marathae
brown morph
marathae
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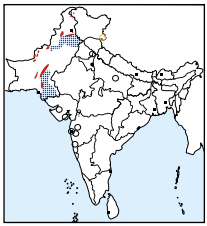
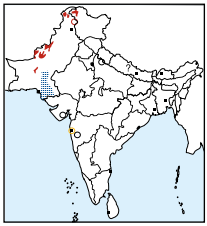
deserticolor
Indian Scops Owl



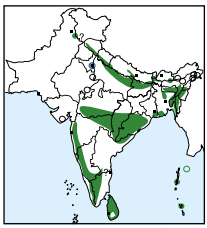
Pallid Scops Owl *Otus brucei* 22 cm

Resident in Pakistan and winters south to W India. **ID** Paler and greyer than grey-morph Eurasian Scops; has less distinct (buff not white) scapular spots, and narrow streaking on underparts, which lack pale horizontal panels. Facial disc paler and plainer with black border finer and stronger. Primary coverts more strongly patterned, with broad sandy-white bars. Fewer pale bars on tail (2–4 rather than 5–7 on central rectrices) than Eurasian. Primary tips do not project beyond tail (slight projection on Eurasian). Juv completely barred below including facial discs, juvenile Eurasian more closely resembles adult. **Voice** Call a hollow, ow-pitched *whoop-whoop-whoop*. **HH** Spends day in crevice, tree hole or thick foliage. Stony foothills in semi-desert.



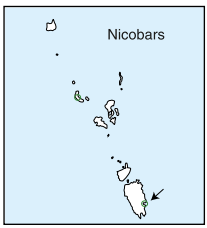
Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops* 19 cm

Summer visitor to N and W Pakistan mountains; winters in S Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Occurs as grey and brown morphs. Not safely distinguishable in the field from Oriental Scops Owl, except by call, although is more finely marked below (finer dark streaks, less marked black cross-bars and smaller white markings) (see Oriental). Within range, most likely to be confused with Pallid and best told by prominent white spots on scapulars, darker facial discs, pale horizontal bars on underparts, and different call. **Voice** Call is plaintive bell-like whistle, repeated for many minutes. **HH** Habits similar to Oriental's. Scrub in dry rocky hills and valleys.



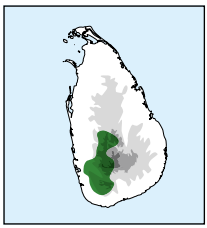
Oriental Scops Owl *Otus sunia* 19 cm

Resident. Himalayas, India, and Sri Lanka. **ID** Highly variable, with grey, brown and rufous morphs. Prominent white scapular spots, streaked underparts and upperparts, lacks prominent nuchal collar. Rufous morph distinct from Eurasian Scops; others appear virtually identical, although Oriental is more heavily marked above and below. Sri Lankan race, *O. s. leggei* is smaller and can be very dark. Nicobar race, *O. s. nicobaricus* is rufous, and can be uniform bright rufous including facial discs (lacking markings except for white scapular spots). **Voice** Repeated, rhythmic, frog-like *wut-chu-chraaii*. **HH** Hides by day in densely foliage. Forest and around habitation.



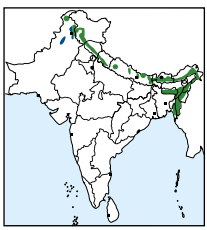
Nicobar Scops Owl *Otus alius* 24 cm

Resident. Nicobars. **ID** Quite different from rufous morph of Oriental which is only other scops owl in the Nicobars. Brownish in coloration. Forehead, upperparts and underparts are finely barred with brown, buff and white, and shows prominent white scapular spots. Barred underparts have sparse and irregular dark streaking. Has poorly defined facial discs, and stubby ear-tufts. Bill and claws are pale. **Voice** Songs include long series of plaintive, clear, piping calls, each note rising in pitch at first then leveling off. **HH** Coastal forest.



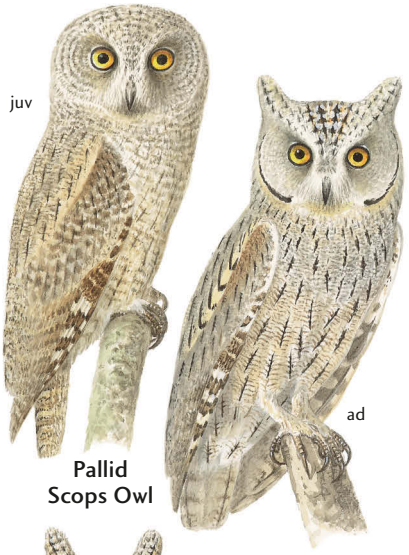
Chestnut-backed Owlet *Glaucidium castanotum* 19 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Similar to Jungle, which also occurs in Sri Lanka, but back and wing-coverts are bright chestnut (and narrowly and diffusely barred with brown and some buff). Lower throat and band across breast are barred brown and buff as on Jungle, but belly and flanks are noticeably streaked (rather than barred). Whitish 'eye-brows' are virtually absent. **Voice** Call is a slow resonant *kraw... kraw*. **HH** Diurnal, shy and wary. Dense forest.

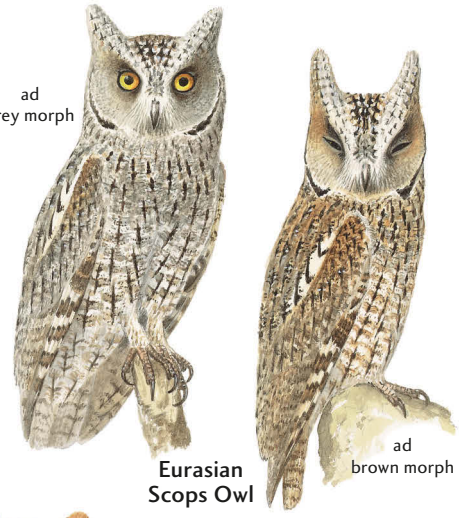


Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei* 17 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Most similar to Jungle Owlet, but is much smaller, and has distinct buff (or rufous) 'spectacles' on upper mantle which frame blackish patches (creating pattern resembling an owl's face). Further, crown appears spotted rather than neatly and finely barred, and is barred rather than diffusely streaked on flanks, and has broader white 'eye-brows'. Occurs as rufous, grey and brown morphs. **Voice** Call is a pleasant bell-like whistle *toot… tootoot... toot*. **HH** Diurnal and crepuscular. Calls persistently by day and night in breeding season. Subtropical and temperate forest.

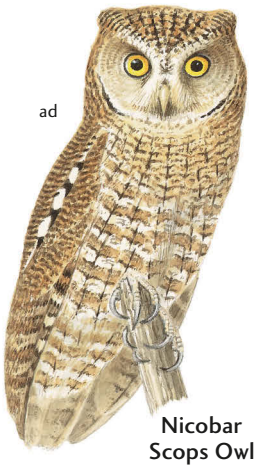


Pallid Scops Owl



Eurasian Scops Owl

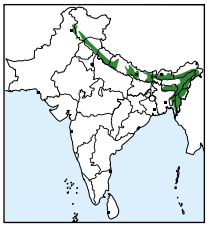
Oriental Scops Owl



Nicobar Scops Owl

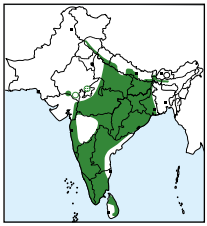
Chestnut-backed Owlet

Collared Owlet



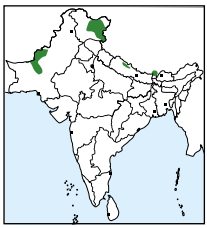
Asian Barred Owlet *Glaucidium cuculoides* 23 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Jungle by larger size and longer, fuller-looking tail, buff barring on wing-coverts and flight feathers (wings of Jungle barred rufous and contrast with buff-barred mantle), and less finely barred upperparts and underparts, with barring broken and apparent as broad streaks on belly and flanks. Juvenile has buff spotting on crown, nape and mantle; breast-barring and flank-streaking more diffuse. In E Himalayas and NE subcontinent (*G. c. austerum* and *G. c. rufescens*) more rufous, with rufous-buff barring. **Voice** Call is a continuous bubbling whistle. **HH** Mainly diurnal. Forests.



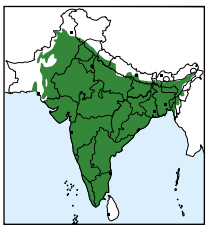
Jungle Owlet *Glaucidium radiatum* 20 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in most of NW and NE. **ID** From Asian Barred by smaller size, bright rufous barring on wing-coverts and flight feathers contrasting with buff barring on mantle (wings of Asian Barred are barred with buff and are therefore concolorous with mantle), more closely barred upperparts and underparts with bars continuous across lower flanks and belly. In Malabar coastal strip (*G. r. malabaricum*) is more rufous, particularly across the breast and on the crown, mantle and scapulars. **Voice** Call is a loud *kao... kao... kao* followed by a *kao... kuk* and notes similar to Asian Barred. **HH** Mainly crepuscular, sometimes active in daytime. Open tropical and subtropical forest.



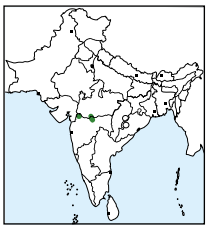
Little Owl *Athene noctua* 23 cm

Resident. Baluchistan and trans-Himalayas. **ID** Sandy coloured owl with white 'spectacles', white throat and bold white spotting on upperparts. From Spotted Owlet by streaked rather than spotted breast and flanks. **Voice** Call is a plaintive *quew* repeated every few seconds and a soft barking *werro-werro*. **HH** Crepuscular and partly diurnal. Cliffs and ruins in semi-desert.



Spotted Owlet *Athene brama* 21 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** From Jungle and Asian Barred by spotted rather than barred appearance (with prominent white spotting on crown, mantle and wing-coverts, and brown spotting rather than close dark barring on underparts). In addition, has pale facial discs and pale hind collar. In arid regions of W Pakistan, its range overlaps with that of the very similar Little Owl, but has spotted or barred rather than streaked breast and flanks. Birds in N India (*A. b. indica*) are paler, grey-brown in coloration compared with the nominate subspecies of S India. **Voice** Call is a harsh screechy *chirurr-chirurr-chirurr*, followed by/alternated with *cheevak, cheevak, cheevak*. **HH** Mainly crepuscular and nocturnal. Around habitation and cultivation.



Forest Owlet *Heteroglaux blewitti* 23 cm

Resident. Hills of NC peninsula. **ID** Compared with Spotted has rather dark grey-brown crown and nape, which is only faintly spotted with white, and lacks prominent white hind collar. Scapulars have some white tips and bars, but are more uniform and not as profusely and irregularly spotted as on Spotted. Wings and tail more broadly banded blackish-brown and white. Breast dark brown and barring on upper flanks is broader and more prominent; rest of underparts white, much cleaner than on Spotted. **Voice** Utters a series of clear, mellow, rapid whistles for long periods. **HH** Diurnal. Deciduous forest. Globally threatened. **TN** Formerly placed in *Athene*.

Boreal Owl *Aegolius funereus* 24–26 cm

Rare resident? NW Pakistan, NW India and Bhutan. **ID** Has relatively large, square-shaped head, greyish-white facial discs encircled with black (with angular upper edge giving rise to alert expression), and white spotting on forehead and crown. Juvenile has uniform brown crown, mantle and underparts, and dark brown facial discs edged with white, retaining this plumage for several months. **Voice** Commonest calls are a soft, far-carrying, regularly repeated *po-po-po* and a squirrel-like smacking *yiop* or *chiak*. **HH** Nocturnal. Subalpine scrub. **AN** Tengmalm's Owl.

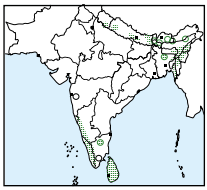
juv
ad
rufescens
ad
cuculoides
Asian Barred Owlet
ad
malabaricum
Jungle Owlet
ad
radiatum
ad
bactriana
Little Owl
ad
brama
Spotted Owlet
ad
indica
ad
Forest Owlet
ad
Boreal Owl

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* 56–66 cm

Resident. Baluchistan hills, Himalayas and Arunachal; above 1,800 m. **ID** Very large, with pronounced upright ear-tufts. Upperparts mottled dark brown and greyish-buff; breast heavily streaked. Larger, paler and greyer than Indian Eagle Owl, with less heavily marked upperparts, plainer facial discs (lacking pronounced dark border) and less heavily barred tail. **Voice** Call is a resonant *whooh-tu*, the first note stressed and longer. **HH** Cliffs and open rocky areas.

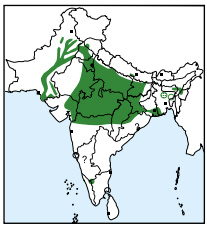
Indian Eagle Owl *Bubo (bubo) bengalensis* 48.5 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills and south through peninsula; chiefly below 1,500 m. **ID** From larger Eurasian by darker more heavily marked upperparts, pronounced dark border to facial discs, buff scapular spots, and heavily barred tail. Often darker on crown and mantle than illustrated. From Brown Fish Owl by more upright ear-tufts, pronounced facial discs, broader breast streaking, and entirely feathered legs. **Voice** Call a deep, resonant *woo-hoooo,* the second note stressed. **HH** Cliffs, woodlands and semi-desert.



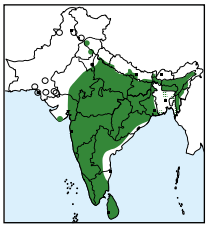
Spot-bellied Eagle Owl *Bubo nipalensis* 63 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India, Western Ghats, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. **ID** Very large, with bold chevron-shaped spots on whitish underparts, whitish facial discs, buff-barred dark brown upperparts, large pale bill, and brown eyes. Juvenile is very distinctive: crown, mantle, coverts, rump and underparts are white and buff, with brown spotting and barring, and face is off-white. Sri Lankan *B. n. blighi* is smaller, darker and with narrower barring on underparts. **Voice** Gives a low, deep, moaning hoot, and a mournful scream. **HH** Dense broadleaved forest.



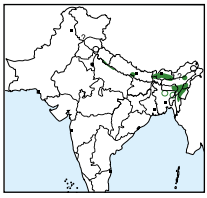
Dusky Eagle Owl *Bubo coromandus* 58 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Upperparts are greyish-brown, finely vermiculated with whitish, and with diffuse darker brown streaking; underparts are greyish-white, finely vermiculated and more strongly streaked with brown. Greyer and much less heavily marked than Indian. From Brown Fish Owl by more upright ear-tufts, more pronounced facial discs, more uniform grey-brown upperparts, and lacking any rufous tones. Legs are feathered to toes (largely unfeathered in Brown Fish Owl). **Voice** Call is a deep, resonant *wo, wo, wo, wo-o-o-o-o*. **HH** Well-watered areas with extensive tree cover.



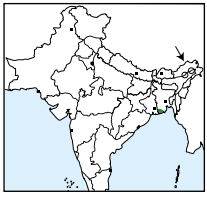
Brown Fish Owl *Ketupa zeylonensis* 56 cm

Widespread resident; rarely recorded in Pakistan. **ID** From Tawny and Buffy by combination of duller brown upperparts, finer dark brown streaking on crown, mantle and scapulars, finer streaking on dull buff underparts (with close cross-barring, lacking on other species), and indistinct or absent white forehead patch. **Voice** Calls include a soft, deep *hup-hup-hu* and a wild *hu-hu-hu-hu… hu ha*. **HH** Forest and well-wooded areas near water.



Tawny Fish Owl *Ketupa flavipes* 61 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From the smaller Brown by pale orange upperparts (much more richly coloured than on Brown) with bolder and more distinct black streaking, bold orange-buff barring on wing-coverts and flight feathers, and broader and more prominent black streaking on pale rufous-orange underparts, which lack black cross-barring, and often shows prominent whitish patch on forehead. See Buffy Fish Owl for differences from that species. **Voice** Call is a deep *whoo-hoo* and a cat-like mewing. **HH** Banks of streams and rivers in dense broadleaved forest.



Buffy Fish Owl *Ketupa ketupu* 50 cm

Resident NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From the much larger Tawny by finer streaking on underparts, with only very fine shaft streaking on belly and flanks, and duller buffish-white to greyish-white barring on flight feathers and tail (more orange-buff on Tawny), From Brown by white forehead (although not always apparent), more rufous-orange upperparts with thicker and more prominent black streaking, orange-buff underparts with more clearly defined black streaking on breast, and lack of black cross-barring on feathers of underparts. **Voice** Call is monotonous *bup-bup-bup-bup-bup-bup-bup*. **HH** Forested streams in plains and mangroves.

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Eurasian Eagle Owl
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Indian Eagle Owl
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Spot-bellied Eagle Owl
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Dusky Eagle Owl
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Brown Fish Owl
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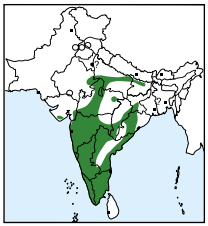
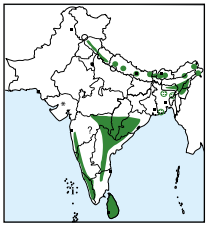
Buffy Fish Owl
Tawny Fish Owl
ad



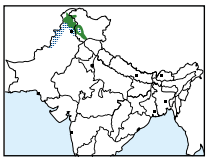
Mottled Wood Owl *Strix ocellata* 48 cm

Resident. Peninsular India. **ID** A distinctive owl with dark eyes, black concentric barring on pale facial discs, white and rufous mottling on upperparts, and whitish underparts barred with dark brown and mixed with rufous. Shows prominent white 'half-collar' on upper breast. Back and wings are barred and mottled dark brown and greyish-white, with some rufous (mainly on coverts and inner edges of remiges). **Voice** Calls include spooky, quavering *whaa-aa-aa-aa-ah*. **HH** Open wooded areas, groves around villages and cultivation in the plains.



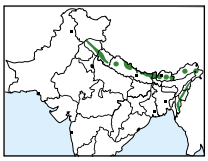
Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* 47–53 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India, Eastern and Western Ghats, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** From Mottled by uniform upperparts (with patch of white barring on scapulars), and whitish or buffish underparts finely barred with brown; flight feathers are dark brown and narrowly barred paler brown. Himalayan *S. l. newarensis* has dark brown face, with prominent white eyebrows, and striking white band across foreneck. Underparts are greyish-white heavily barred with dark brown. *S. l. indranee* (peninsula) is smaller with rufous facial discs. Upperparts are more heavily barred, and underparts are buffish and barred with brown. **Voice** Calls include a *hoo-hoohoohoo* (*hoo*) and a loud eerie scream. **HH** Dense broadleaved subtropical or temperate forest.



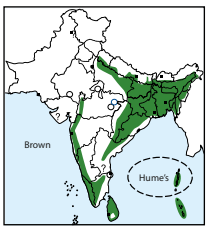
Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* 45–47 cm

Resident. N Baluchistan, Himalayas of N Pakistan and Kashmir. **ID** Larger than 'Himalayan'. Greyer and more uniform in colour. Also mantle is prominently streaked (rather than mottled/barred), tertials and flight feathers are less prominently barred, uppertail more uniform, underparts more cleanly streaked (with much less pronounced 'splashes' of white and dark cross-barring). Eyes dark. **Voice** A prolonged, mournful hooting *too-tu-whoo*. **HH** Temperate forest.



Himalayan Wood Owl *Strix* (*aluco*) *nivicola* 41 cm

Resident. Himalayas from W Himachal to Arunachal and NE India. **ID** From Tawny by browner or rufous coloration, mottled/barred mantle, heavily banded tertials, broadly barred flight feathers and tail, and underparts are more heavily marked with white and buff and cross-barred with dark brown. Birds in Eastern Himalayas are more rufous including rufous facial discs. Eyes are dark (as Tawny). **Voice** Gives two mellow, resonant hoots, *oo-oo*. **HH** Temperate forest.

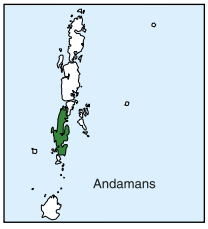


Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata* 32 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, hills of NE India and Bangladesh; peninsular hills, Sri Lanka and Nicobars. **ID** Hawk-like profile (with slim body, long tail and narrow head). Has uniform brown upperparts showing variable amounts of white spotting on scapulars, all-dark face except for variable white patch above bill (lacking pale facial discs shown by many owl species), and bold rufous-brown streaking and spotting on underparts. Birds in north-east (*N. s. burmanica*), southern Western Ghats and Sri Lanka are darker. Birds in Nicobars have more diffuse rufous spotting on underparts (and are traditionally placed with Andaman's *affinis*). **Voice** A soft *oo... ok, oo... ok, oo... ok*. **HH** Tropical and subtropical forest and well-wooded areas.

Hume's Hawk Owl *Ninox* (*scutulata*) *obscura* 32 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Almost entirely dark chocolate-brown, without broad streaking on the underparts; has indistinct white spotting on flanks and belly, and a whitish forehead. **Voice** A fluty interrogative two noted *coo-whuk*. **HH** Forest edge and well-wooded areas.



Andaman Hawk Owl *Ninox affinis* 25 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** From sympatric Hume's by smaller size, rufous spotting on white underparts, paler brown coloration to upperparts, unmarked undertail coverts, more broadly barred tail, and different call. Similar to allopatric Brown Hawk Owl but with pale bill, more pronounced white forehead and throat, paler grey-brown upperparts, and rufous streaking to entire underparts (flanks and belly become spotted or barred in Brown). **Voice** Gives a loud, resounding *craw*. **HH** Forest, secondary woodland and mangroves.

ad
Mottled Wood Owl
ad
indranee
Brown Wood Owl
ad
newarensis
Tawny Owl
ad
Brown Hawk Owl
ad
lugubris
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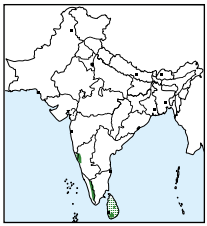
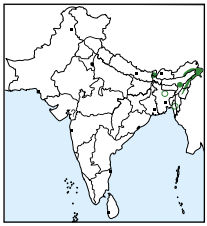
burmanica
ad
Andaman Hawk Owl
ad
brown morph
Himalayan Wood Owl
ad
rufous morph
ad
Hume's Hawk Owl



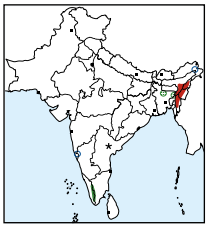
Sri Lanka Frogmouth *Batrachostomus moniliger* 23 cm

Resident. Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. **ID** Smaller and shorter-tailed than Hodgson's Frogmouth, with bigger-looking head and bill. Male is brownish-grey in coloration, with irregular black-and-white markings and vermiculations. White markings typically form narrow 'collar' across upper mantle and irregular line of spotting across breast, and are usually prominent on scapulars, wing-coverts and belly/flanks. Female is more uniform, and rufous to rufous-brown in coloration, with odd whitish spots on scapulars and coverts, belly/flanks, and often forming irregular hind 'collar'. **Voice** Gives a fairly loud series of rollicking, liquid chuckles; also a range of softer whistles and croaks. **HH** Bamboo and cane forest; dense tropical and subtropical evergreen forest.



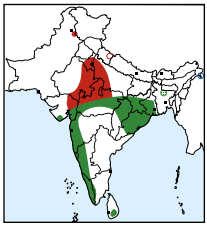
Hodgson's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus hodgsoni* 27 cm

Resident. E Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male is rufous-brown. Upperparts are heavily marked with black, especially on head, with irregular bold whitish markings particularly on scapulars and upper mantle (forming 'collar' on some birds). Underparts are heavily and irregularly marked with black, white and rufous. Female is more uniformly rufous, with irregular black-tipped white spots on upper mantle, scapulars and underparts. **Voice** Usual call is a series of soft, burring *gwaa* notes with rising inflection. **HH** Subtropical evergreen forest.



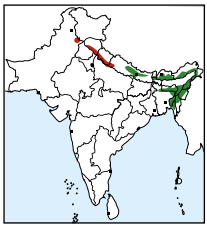
Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis* 40–41 cm

Resident. Mainly NE India, Bangladesh and Western Ghats. **ID** A very large, richly coloured nightjar. At rest, shows prominent ear-tufts, and is generally more richly marked with golden-buff and rufous than other nightjars. Has fine rufous barring on black ear-coverts and throat, buff underparts boldly barred with dark brown, and tail broadly banded with golden-buff and dark brown. In flight, appears large, with slow and buoyant flight action (often feeding high in the air), and lacks white or buff spots on wings or tail. **Voice** Song is a clear, wailing *pee-wheeeu*. **HH** Tropical and subtropical broadleaved moist forest and secondary growth.



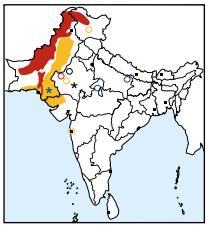
Jungle Nightjar *Caprimulgus indicus* 27–32 cm

Resident and summer visitor from E Rajasthan to Bihar and Orissa, and south through W peninsula to Sri Lanka. **ID** Very similar to Grey, and probably not safely identified in the field except by song. Typically smaller, paler and greyer than Grey, with more patterned appearance to upperparts, greyish-white or buffish (rather than rufous) spotting on wing-coverts, and narrower dark tail bands. Greyer in NW and darker in south of range. **Voice** Song is a slow series of *fwick-m* notes; flight call is series of *foo* notes. **HH** Forest clearings and scrub-covered slopes. **TN** Treated here as conspecific with following species as Grey Nightjar *C. indicus*.



Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus* (*indicus*) *jotaka* 32 cm

Summer visitor to NE Pakistan and Himalayas from Himachal through Uttaranchal; resident Nepal through Arunachal, S Assam and SE Bangladesh. **ID** Dark grey-brown and heavily marked with black. More cold-coloured and less strongly patterned than Large-tailed Nightjar, with greyer upperparts and lacking diffuse warm rufous-brown nuchal collar. Breast is dark grey-brown, lacking warm buff or brown tones. Further, has bold, irregular black markings on scapulars, usually lacking prominent pale edges, variable but rather poorly defined rufous-buff spotting on coverts, and broader dark banding on tail (with less white at tip than Large-tailed). **Voice** Song is a rapid series of loud, knocking *tuck* or *SCHurk* notes. **HH** Forest clearings.

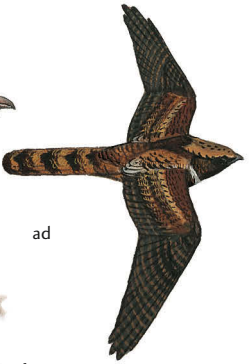


European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* 25 cm

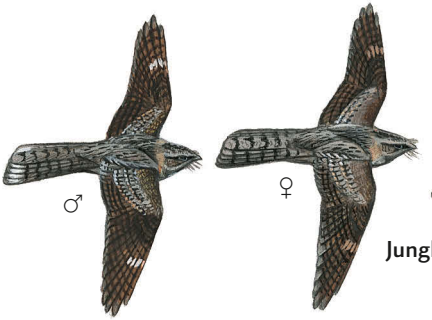
Mainly summer visitor and passage migrant. Pakistan and NW Gujarat. **ID** Bold streaking on crown, nape and scapulars (lacking on Savanna). More cleanly and regularly streaked than Grey, underparts are more neatly barred and generally paler grey. Buffish outer edges to scapulars form prominent line, and spotting on wing-coverts is usually clearly defined. Can be pale sandy-grey or pale grey in coloration, when similar in appearance to Sykes's and Egyptian. Longer wings and tail, boldly streaked crown and scapulars, buff scapular line, and prominent buffish-white spots on coverts separate from Sykes's; see Egyptian for differences. **Voice** Song a continuous churring, very similar to Sykes's but louder and varying in pitch; soft *quoit quoit* in flight. **HH** Rocky slopes with scattered bushes.

Sri Lanka Frogmouth

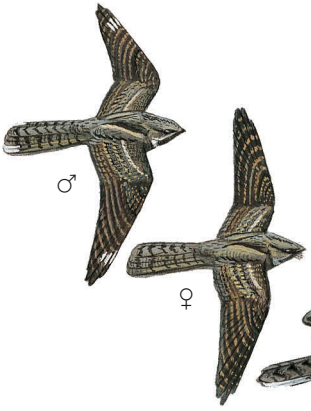
Hodgson's Frogmouth

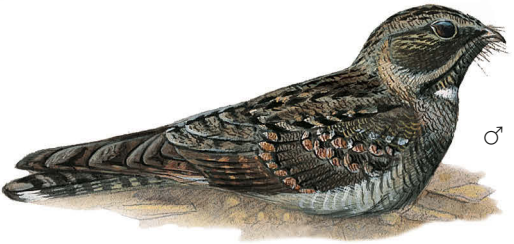


Great Eared Nightjar

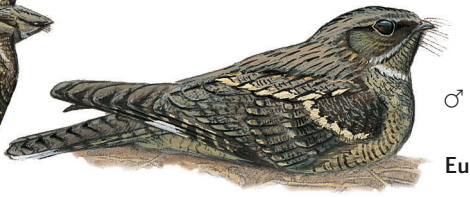


Jungle Nightjar





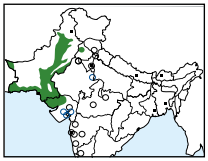
Grey Nightjar



European Nightjar

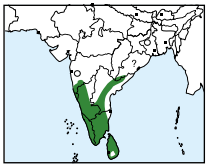
Egyptian Nightjar *Caprimulgus aegyptius* 25 cm

Summer visitor. SW Pakistan. **ID** Larger than Sykes's Nightjar, with longer wings and tail. Similar in plumage to some Sykes's, although crown and nape are relatively unmarked, with only fine dark streaking (Sykes's generally shows more pronounced small dark arrowhead-shaped markings on crown, and irregular buff spotting on nape forms indistinct collar), and lacks white in wings or tail. Some European can be similarly coloured, but Egyptian has finely streaked crown, relatively unmarked scapulars with buff mottling and black marks, and coverts have prominent irregular buff mottling. **Voice** Song is a *kowrr... kowrr... kowrr*; guttural *tuk-l tuk-l* in flight. **HH** Semi-desert.



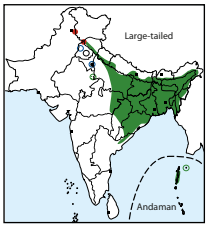
Sykes's Nightjar *Caprimulgus mahrattensis* 23 cm

Resident. Breeds in Pakistan and parts of NW India; winters south to C India. **ID** Small, grey nightjar. Has finely streaked crown, black marks on scapulars, large white patches on sides of throat, and irregular buff spotting on nape forming indistinct collar. Compared with Indian Nightjar, which is similarly proportioned, crown is much less heavily marked, lacks well-defined rufous-buff nuchal collar, scapulars are relatively unmarked, and central tail feathers are more strongly barred. **Voice** Has continuous churring song; low, soft *chuck-chuck* in flight. **HH** Breeds in semi-desert; wide variety of habitats in winter.



Jerdon's Nightjar *Caprimulgus atripennis* 28 cm

Resident. C and S peninsula and Sri Lanka. **ID** More warmly coloured and strongly patterned than Jungle. Has rufous band across nape/upper mantle, complete white throat, well-defined buff edges to scapulars, and broad, buff tips to black-centred coverts forming wing-bars. Tail shorter than Large-tailed Nightjar, with unbarred brown breast. **Voice** Song is a series of liquid, tremulous calls: *ch-wo-wo*, repeated at the rate of 13–20 per minute. **HH** Forest edges.

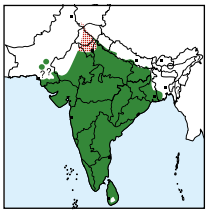


Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* 33 cm

Resident. Himalayas east to E and NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Larger, longer-tailed and more warmly coloured and strongly patterned than Grey, with pale rufous-brown nuchal collar, complete white throat, well-defined buff edges and bold wedge-shaped black centres to scapulars, broad buff tips to coverts forming wing-bars, and more extensive white or buff in outer tail feathers. **Voice** Series of loud, resonant calls: *chaunk-chaunk-chaunk*, repeated at rate of *c.*100 per minute. **HH** Forest edges.

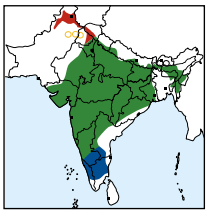
Andaman Nightjar *Caprimulgus andamanicus* 28 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Medium-sized, dark-coloured nightjar. Compared with Large-tailed, scapulars lack prominent pale edgings, coverts are comparatively uniform, has rufous barring at base of primaries, and lacks prominent nuchal collar. **Voice** Song is a series of *tyuk* notes, rather weak and rapidly repeated. **HH** Open forest and open country with scattered trees. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Large-tailed Nightjar *C. macrurus*.



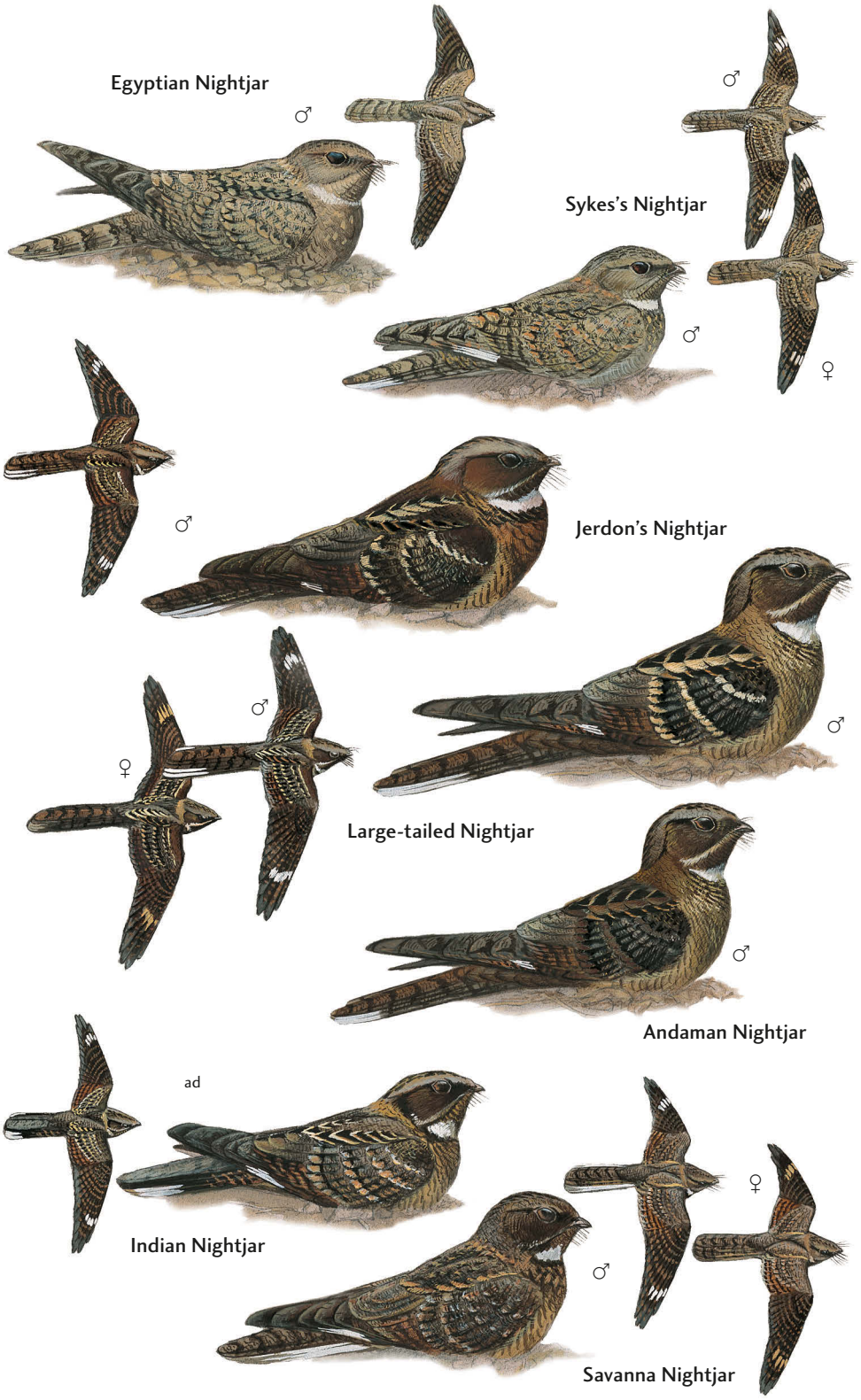
Indian Nightjar *Caprimulgus asiaticus* 24 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in northwest and most of northeast. **ID** Grey, sandy-grey to brownish-grey in coloration. Best told by combination of small size and relatively short wings and tail, boldly streaked crown, rufous-buff markings on nape forming distinct collar, bold black centres and broad buff edges to scapulars, prominent buff or rufous-buff spotting on wing-coverts, and pale, relatively unmarked central tail feathers. Similar in appearance to Large-tailed, but much smaller, with shorter tail; note also broken patches of white on sides of throat and more uniform tail. **Voice** Song is a far-carrying *chuk-chuk-chuk-chuk-tukaroo*; short sharp *qwit-qwit* in flight. **HH** Open wooded country in plains and foothills.



Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis* 23 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** A medium-sized, dark brownish-grey nightjar. Less strikingly marked than other nightjars; crown and mantle are finely vermiculated, and lack bold dark streaking; has more uniform coverts with fine dark vermiculations and irregular rufous-buff markings, and scapulars are usually edged with rufous-buff. Male has largely white outer tail feathers. **Voice** Song is a strident *dheet*. **HH** Open forest, stony areas with scrub.


Egyptian Nightjar
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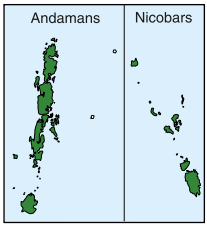
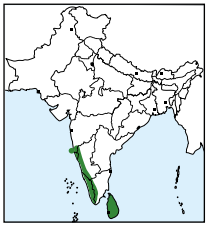


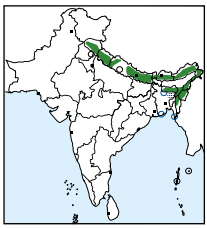
Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* 10 cm

Resident. Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** From Edible-nest Swiftlet by smaller size, glossy blue-black upperparts, square-ended tail (with only slight indentation), white belly contrasting with dark grey throat and breast, and dark undertail-coverts and underside to tail. Shows pale fringing and dark blotching on lower breast, and extent of white on underbody varies. **Voice** A sharp twitter. **HH** Gregarious and tame. Hawks around habitation; often flying freely in and out.



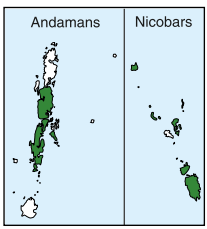
Indian Swiftlet *Collocalia unicolor* 12 cm

Resident. Western Ghats, islets on Malabar coast, Sri Lanka (only swiftlet occurring within this range). **ID** Small brownish swiftlet with slight gloss to upperparts, and paler greyish-brown underparts. Has uniform upperparts (occasionally with very indistinctly paler rump), and only slight indentation to tail. Like other swiftlets, has bat-like flight with rapid flapping broken by banking and gliding. **Voice** Gives a harsh call-note, and feeble, shrill clicking or twittering *chit-chit* when roosting. **HH** Roosts gregariously in caves, clinging like bats to rock faces or to old nests, sometimes in huge numbers. Leaves the roost with a noisy rush of wings before dawn, returning at dusk. Wanders erratically over large distances in hills to feed.



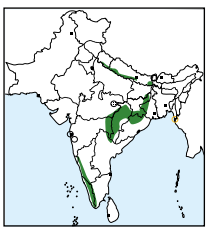
Himalayan Swiftlet *Collocalia brevirostris* 14 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** A stocky brown swiftlet with slight gloss to upperparts, and pronounced indentation to tail. Has paler grey-brown underparts than upperparts, and distinct pale grey rump band. Only swiftlet over much of range, although does occur as a migrant in Andamans (confusable with Edible-nest) and could occur in range of Indian. From Edible-nest by larger size, greater tail indentation, browner upperparts with less gloss (and less contrast between upperparts and underparts), and broader, less clearly defined rump band. From Indian by larger size, more pronounced tail indentation, and pale rump band. **Voice** Low, rattling call and twittering *chit-chit* at roost. **HH** Habits similar to Indian's. Roosts in caves; forages over forest.



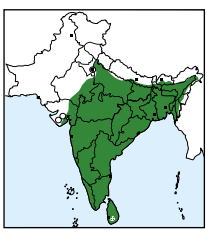
Edible-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia fuciphaga* 12 cm

Resident. Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** From Glossy by larger size, noticeable indentation to tail, dusky-black upperparts, uniform greyish-brown underparts, and narrow greyish (although sometimes very indistinct) rump band. For differences from Himalayan Swiftlet, see that species. **Voice** Gives a loud metallic *zwing*. **HH** Habits very similar to Indian's. Roosts in caves; hawks around mangrove swamps and around habitation in day. **TN** Edible-nest, Indian and Himalayan Swiftlets often placed in *Aerodramus*.



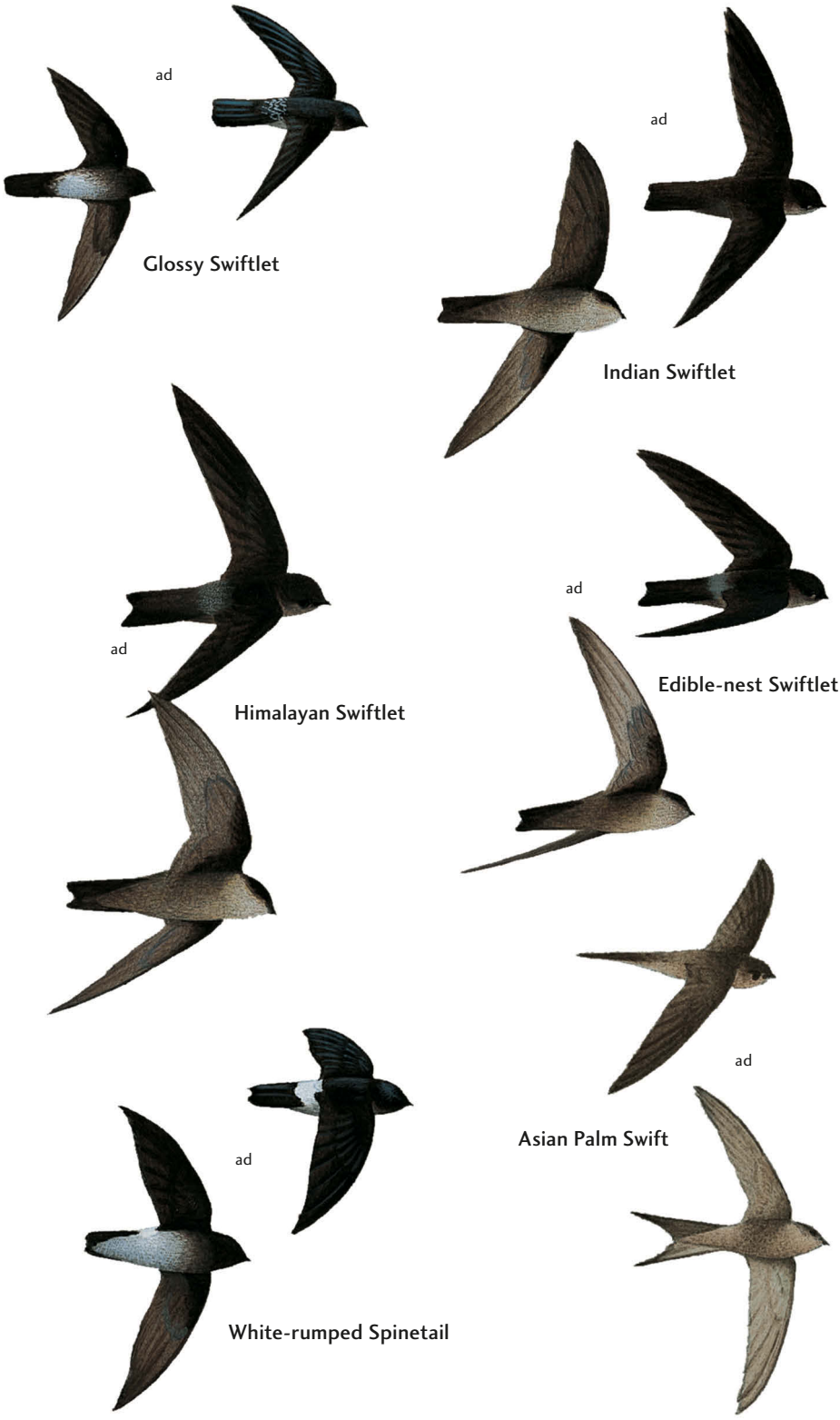
White-rumped Spinetail *Zoonavena sylvatica* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE, E and SW India. **ID** Small and stocky, with broad wings, pinched in at base and pointed at tip. Flight is fast with rapid wing-beats, and banking from side to side, interspersed with short glides on slightly bowed wings. Upperparts mainly blue-black with contrasting white rump; throat and breast are grey-brown, merging into whitish lower belly and undertail-coverts. Long white undertail-coverts contrast with black of sides and tip of undertail. 'Spines' at tip of tail visible at close range. Wing shape and flight action different from House Swift, and lacks white throat. **Voice** Twittering *chi k-chick* in flight. **HH** Keeps in flocks of up to 50 birds. Hawks over forest with great manoeuvrability. Broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forest.



Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis* 13 cm

Resident. Widespread; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Small and very slim with fine scythe-shaped wings and deeply forked tail (usually held closed). Rapid fluttering wing-beats are interspersed with short glides. Throat is slightly paler than rest of underparts, and may also show a slightly paler rump. Much smaller than Crested Treeswift, with weaker, more fluttering flight, and is browner in coloration (and does not show whiter belly and undertail-coverts). In south Assam (*C. b. infumatus*) is darker with narrower tail fork. **Voice** Utters a trilling *te-he-he-he-he*. Twists and turns in the air with great agility. **HH** Usually hawks insects around palms. Open country and cultivation; closely associated with palms.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Glossy Swiftlet
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Asian Palm Swift
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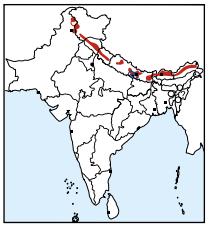
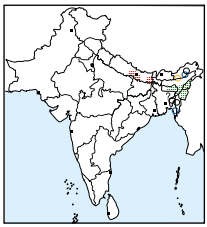
White-rumped Spinetail



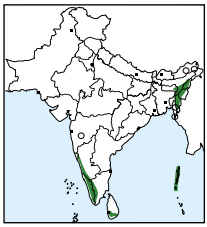
White-throated Needletail *Hirundapus caudacutus* 20 cm

Summer visitor. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** As other needletails, a magnificent flier combining very strong flapping with swooping, gliding and soaring, often at very high speeds. Like other species has pale 'saddle' on upperparts, and striking white 'horseshoe' crescent at rear end. Best told from Silver-backed and Brown-backed Needletails by clearly demarcated white throat, and white inner webs to tertials (showing as white patch, although may be obscured). Additional differences from Brown-backed include smaller size, dark lores, and more contrasting pale 'saddle'. Also shows shorter, square-ended tail projection beyond white undertail-coverts, and tail 'spines' are less distinct. Juvenile has less clear-cut white throat (and is much more similar to Silver-backed); has black streaking and spotting on white of hind flanks, and dark fringes to white undertail-coverts. **Voice** Utters feeble, rapid metallic chittering, audible only at close range. **HH** Usually occurs singly or in loose parties. Roosts colonially on cliffs and trees. Often seen over ridges, cliffs, forest, upland grassland and river valleys.



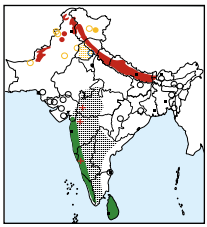
Silver-backed Needletail *Hirundapus cochinchinensis* 20 cm

Resident. E Himalayas, hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Throat pale brown or grey and can appear distinctly pale greyish-white, but never pure white and sharply divided from breast as in White-throated. Tertials have a pale grey inner web which may be visible in the field (strikingly white in White-throated). Noticeably smaller than Brown-backed, usually shows paler throat and dark lores, and has more contrasting pale 'saddle'. Also tends to show shorter, square-ended tail projection beyond white undertail-coverts, and tail 'spines' are less distinct. Juvenile has dark fringes to white undertail-coverts. **Voice** Makes a soft rippling *trp-trp-trp-trp-trp*. **HH** Habits very similar to White-throated's. Mainly hawks over forest and forested hills.



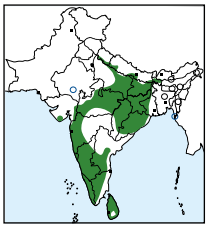
Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus* 23 cm

Resident. Hills of NE India and Bangladesh, Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. **ID** Largest and most powerful of the needletails; 'needles' of tail larger and longer than on other species and often easy to observe in the field. Compared with Silver-backed has white lores, brown throat concolorous with rest of underparts, and less contrasting pale 'saddle' (uniformly pale brown, lacking silvery-white centre), with longer and rounded or point-ended tail. Juvenile has dark fringes to white undertail-coverts. **Voice** As Silver-backed and Brown-backed. **HH** Habits similar to those of White-throated's. Roosts communally in old tree hollows. Hawks over broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forest and forest clearings.



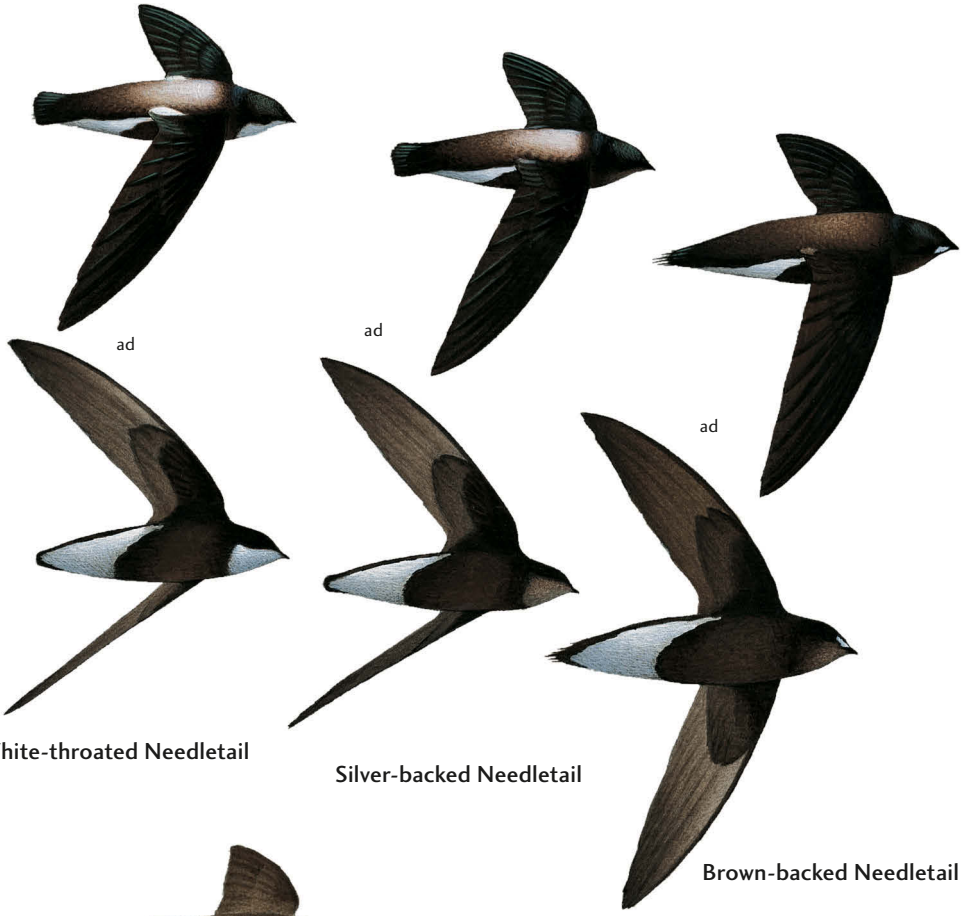
Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba* 22 cm

Resident? Locally in subcontinent. **ID** Larger and more powerful than *Apus* swifts, with deeper and slower wing-beats. Best told by white throat with brown breast-band, and white breast and belly contrasting with brown underwing, flanks and vent. Birds breeding in the Himalayas have mid-brown upperparts and wings, paler brown than Common Swift. Birds in Western Ghats and Sri Lanka are smaller and darker with broader breast band. **Voice** Utters a high-pitched trilling *tri-hi-hi-hi-hi*. **HH** Usually keeps in scattered flocks. Roots in clefts in rock faces. Skims over hills and mountains with cliffs or old forts; may occur briefly over any habitat.



Crested Treeswift *Hemiprocne coronata* 23 cm

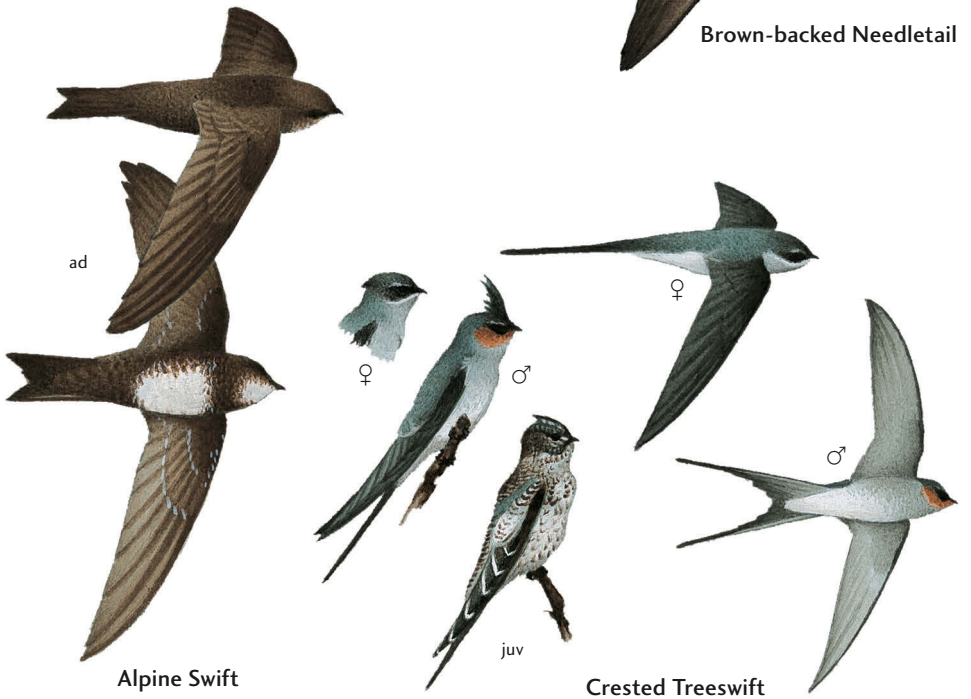
Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Large size with sickle-shaped wings and long, deeply forked tail which is usually held closed and pointed in flight. Typically, flies above tree canopy with mixture of rapid and rather heavy fluttering and periods of banking and gliding. In flight, appears mainly blue-grey with darker upperwing and tail, and whitish abdomen and undertail-coverts. At rest, both sexes show prominent dark green-blue crest, and wing-coverts are glossed with blue. Male has dull orange ear-coverts. Female has dark grey ear-coverts, forming dark mask, bordered below by whitish moustachial stripe. Juvenile has extensive white fringes to upperparts (especially noticeable on lower back and rump), and feathers of underparts are fringed with white and have grey-brown subterminal bands. **Voice** Makes a harsh *whit-tucck...* *whit-tuck* in flight. **HH** Unlike other swifts, perches readily in trees. Forages over well-wooded areas and forest, usually deciduous.



White-throated Needletail

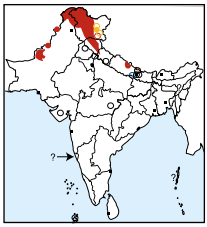
Silver-backed Needletail

Brown-backed Needletail



Alpine Swift

Crested Treeswift

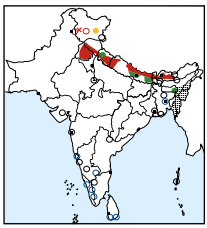


Common Swift *Apus apus* 17 cm

Mainly summer visitor. Baluchistan and W Himalayas. **ID** From Fork-tailed Swift by uniform brown upperparts (lacking white rump) and lacks (or has much less distinct) pale scaling on the underparts. For differences from the very similar Pallid and Dark-rumped Swifts, see those species. Juvenile has whiter forehead and more extensive white throat, and extensive pale scaling on underparts (although not so prominent as on Fork-tailed). **Voice** Utters a high-pitched screaming *screee... screee... screee*. **HH** Habits similar to Alpine's. Chiefly mountains, but can occur hawking over any habitat.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus* 17 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan. **ID** Paler grey-brown in coloration than Common, with more extensive pale throat and forehead, which contrasts with darker eye-patch. Has dark outer primaries and leading edge to wing, contrasting on both upperside and underside with pale rest of wing (especially with pale greater primary coverts on upperwing). Underparts more distinctly scaled than in Common, and shows greater contrasts between head and mantle and between mantle and wings (often giving rise to dark-saddled, pale-headed appearance). Also Pallid is slightly bulkier and broader-winged, and has blunter tips to wings and slightly shallower fork to tail. **Voice** Gives a disyllabic *cheeu-eet* or *churr-ic*. **HH** Habits similar to Alpine's. Coastal areas.

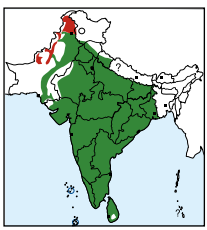


Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus* 15–18 cm

Breeds in Himalayas and NE India; scattered winter records in peninsula. **ID** Dark swift with prominent white rump and deeply forked tail. Best told from House Swift by longer, deeply forked tail, whitish fringes to feathers of underparts (giving rise to greyish cast to breast and belly at a distance), and slimmer-bodied and longer-winged appearance. Himalayan races (*A. p. leuconyx*) smaller than migrant nominate. The latter is more likely to be confused with Common but has prominent white rump, more extensive white throat, and distinct pale scaling on underparts; also appears slightly larger and longer-winged than Common, with longer tail with deeper fork. **Voice** Call is less wheezy and softer than Common's, a *sreee*. **HH** Hawks over open hilltops.

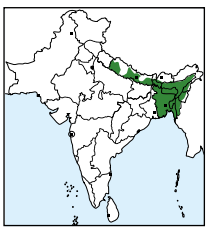
Dark-rumped Swift *Apus acuticauda* 17 cm

Resident. Meghalaya, Bhutan, and Mizoram. **ID** An all-dark swift recalling Fork-tailed, from which separated by all-dark rump and lack of clearly defined white throat. Throat is greyish-white, with dark streaking, and patterning merges with rest of underparts (which are more broadly fringed with white than on Fork-tailed). Does not appear so slim and long-winged as Fork-tailed, and tail-fork is sharper, with narrower and more pointed outer tail feathers. Very similar to Common; look for heavily marked throat, bold scaling on underparts (belly often appears pale grey in strong light) and darker vent. **Voice** High-pitched call around breeding cliffs. **HH** Keeps close to nesting cliffs while breeding; does not travel far to feed like other swifts. Rocky cliffs and gorges. Globally threatened.



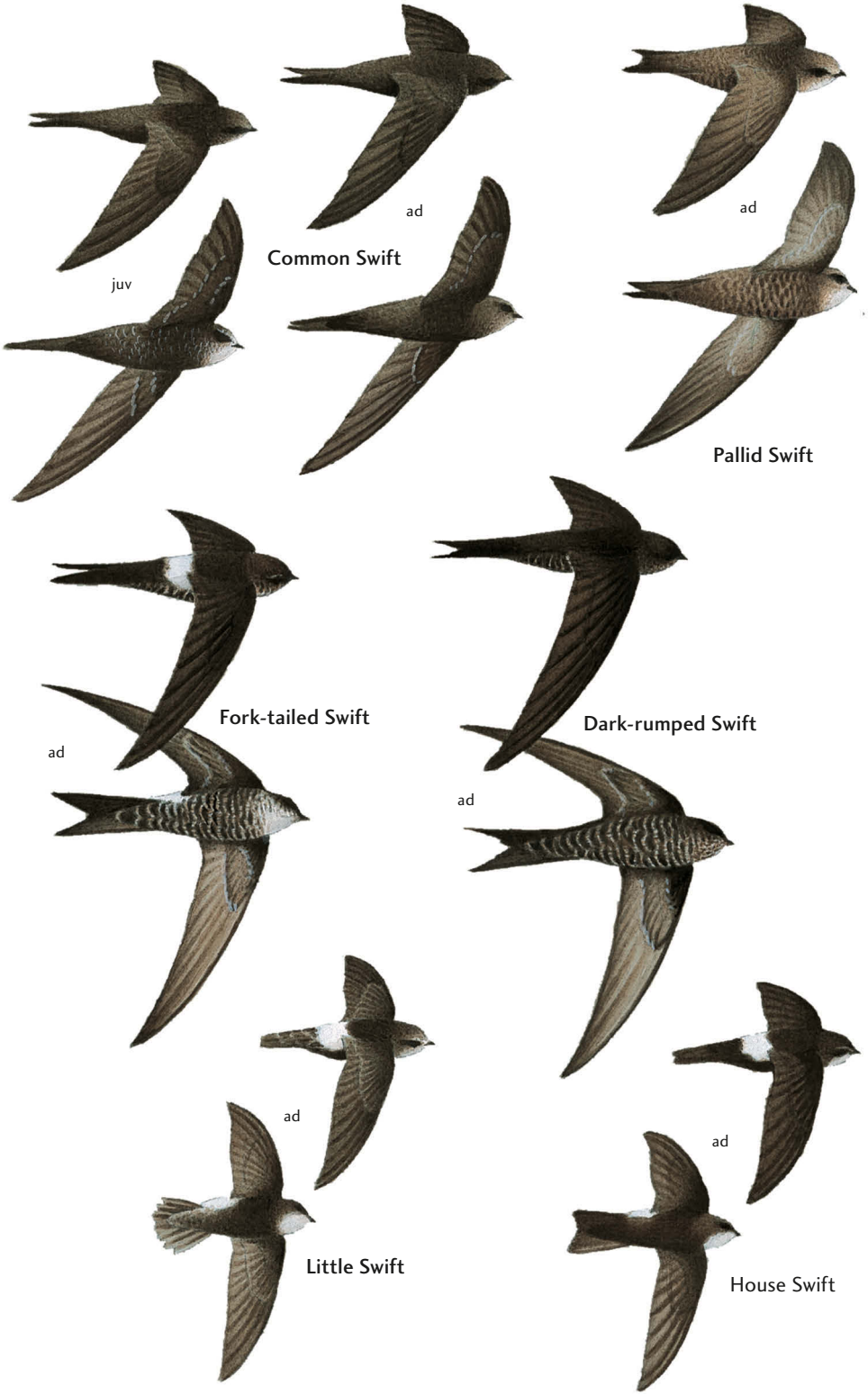
Little Swift *Apus affinis* 15 cm

Widespread resident south and west of range of *A. nipalensis*; unrecorded in parts of northwest. **ID** A small, stocky swift with prominent white throat and rump band. Stouter and paler than House with broader white rump band. Square-ended tail – more rounded when open, but can show slight notch. **Voice** Rapid and shrill *sik-sik-sik-sik… sik-sik-sik-sik-sik-sik*. **HH** Usually keeps in large scattered flocks and within a wide vicinity of its nesting area when breeding. Habitation, cliffs and ruins.



House Swift *Apus* (*affinis*) *nipalensis* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** A small, stocky, blackish swift with prominent white throat and rump band. Slimmer and darker than Little, with little or no white on forehead, narrower white rump band, and has shallow tail fork. From Fork-tailed by smaller size, shorter and broader wings, stout body and rather big head, and much shallower tail fork. Flight is weaker than Fork-tailed, consisting of a few rapid wing strokes followed by long swooping glides and with many twists and turns. **Voice** As Little. **HH** As Little's. **TN** Treated here as conspecific with Little Swift *A. affinis*.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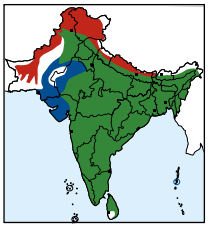
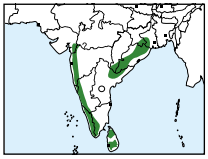


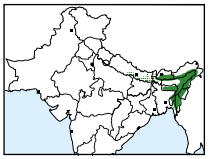
Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops* 31 cm

Summer visitor to far north; resident and winter visitor to much of rest of subcontinent. **ID** Mainly rufous-orange to orange-buff, with striking black-and-white wings and tail, black-tipped fan-like crest which is usually held flat, and downcurved bill. Broad, rounded wings and like giant butterfly in flight. **Voice** A repetitive *poop, poop, poop*; similar to call of Oriental Cuckoo. **HH** Open country, cultivation and villages. **AN** Eurasian Hoopoe.



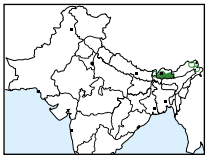
Malabar Trogon *Harpactes fasciatus* 31 cm

Resident. Western and Eastern Ghats, hills of W Tamil Nadu, Sri Lanka. **ID** Eye-ring and bill can be bright blue. Male has grey to blackish head and breast, white breast-band, pinkish-red underparts, black-and-grey vermiculated wing-coverts. Female dark cinnamon head and breast, pale cinnamon underparts, and brown-and-buff vermiculated coverts. Male of nominate (Sri Lanka) has paler grey head than in peninsula. **Voice** A throaty *cue-cue-cue*. **HH** Dense forest.



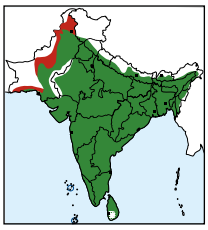
Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus* 35 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Eye-ring and bill can be bright blue. Male has crimson head and breast, white breast-band, pinkish-red underparts, and black-and-grey vermiculated wing-coverts. Female is similar but with dark cinnamon head and breast, and brown-and-buff vermiculated coverts. Immature resembles female. **Voice** A descending sequence; *tyaup, tyaup, tyaup, tyaup, tyaup*. **HH** Dense broadleaved forest.



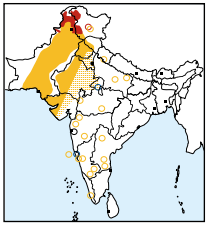
Ward's Trogon *Harpactes wardi* 38 cm

Resident. E Himalayas in Sikkim, Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh. **ID** Large trogon. Bill pink (marked with black in female), eye-ring blue. Male maroon, with deep pink forehead, underparts, and outer tail feathers. Has large white patch at base of secondaries. Female browner, with yellow forehead, underparts, and outer tail feathers; coverts and secondaries finely vermiculated buff (pale grey on male). **Voice** Rapid series of mellow *klew* notes. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen forest.



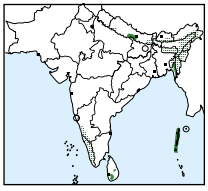
Indian Roller *Coracias benghalensis* 33 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Has rufous-brown on nape and underparts, white streaking on ear-coverts and throat, and greenish mantle. Has turquoise band across primaries and dark blue terminal band to tail. Juvenile is duller and has more heavily streaked throat and breast. *C. b. affinis* (NE) has purplish-brown face and underparts, blue streaking on throat, and dark corners to tail. **Voice** A raucous *chack-chack-chack*, with discordant screeches. **HH** Cultivation, open woodland, gardens.



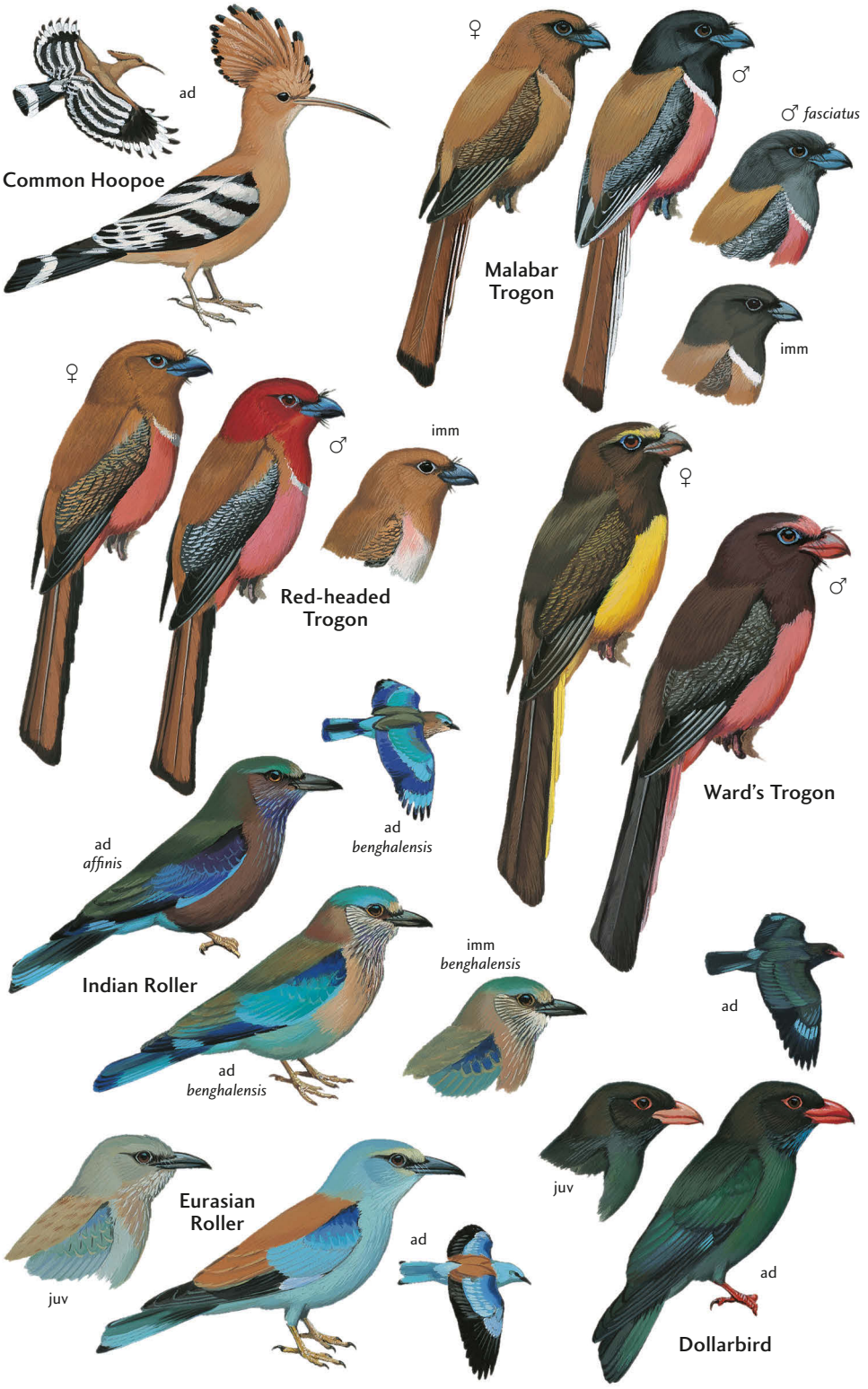
Eurasian Roller *Coracias garrulus* 31 cm

Summer visitor to N Pakistan, Jammu and Kashmir; passage migrant in Pakistan and NW India. **ID** From Indian by turquoise-blue head and underparts, and rufous-cinnamon mantle and tertials. Primaries and secondaries are black, and has black corners to tail (lacks turquoise band across primaries and dark blue terminal band to tail of Indian). Juvenile is more similar to juvenile Indian, and best told by turquoise-blue cast to ear-coverts, crown and nape, which contrast with browner mantle, and patterning of wings and tail (as adult). **Voice** Calls include *ack-er-ack, rack-rack, krak* and a mournful *kraa*. **HH** Open woodland and cultivation.



Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* 28 cm

Resident and partial migrant. Himalayas, NE and SW India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Dark greenish to bluish, appearing black at distance, with red bill and eye-ring. In flight, shows turquoise patch on primaries. Flight is buoyant, with broad wings. Juvenile is similar, but has dull pinkish bill. **Voice** A raucous *check check*. **HH** Forest and forest clearings. [Alt: Oriental Dollarbird]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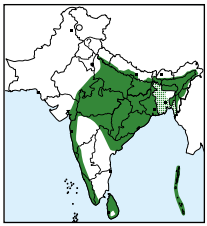
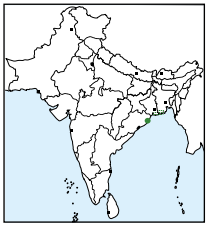


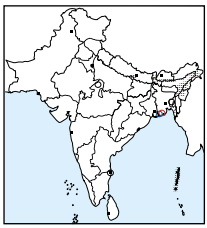
Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis* 35 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Very large with huge coral-red bill, brownish cap, pale orange-buff collar and underparts, and blue-green upperparts. In flight, shows turquoise rump and lower back. Juvenile has dusky barring on underparts, especially on breast (forming a broad breast band). *H. c. intermedia* of the Nicobars lacks brown cap, has entirely orange-buff head with brown flecks on crown, and much deeper blue upperparts. *H. c. osmastoni* of the Andamans has less contrasting paler grey-brown crown. **Voice** Explosive, shrieking *ke-ke-ke-ke-ke* and a pleasant *peer, peer, pur.* Song a long series of often paired melancholy whistles. **HH** Shaded lakes, slow-moving waterways in well-wooded country. **TN** Formerly placed in *Halcyon.*



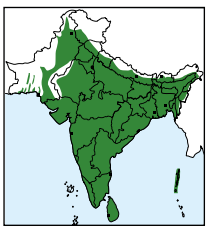
Brown-winged Kingfisher *Pelargopsis amauroptera* 35 cm

Resident. E India and SW Bangladesh. **ID** Very large with huge red bill. From Stork-billed by brown mantle, wings and tail which contrast strongly with turquoise rump and lower back (especially in flight). Lacks the brown cap of Stork-billed, and the entire head and underparts are rich brownish-orange. Juvenile has pale fringes to mantle and wing-coverts, and fine dusky barring on nape and underparts. **Voice** A deep laughing *cha-cha-cha-cha*, descending in pitch and a mournful *chow-chow-chow* whistle. **HH** Coasts, mangrove swamps, tidal rivers and creeks. **TN** Formerly placed in *Halcyon.*



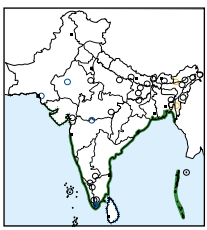
Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* 25 cm

Resident. E Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Medium-sized forest-dwelling kingfisher, with large coral-red bill, rufous-orange upperparts with brilliant violet gloss, and paler rufous underparts. In flight, shows striking bluish-white rump. Juvenile is darker and browner on upperparts, and has bluer rump, faint blackish barring on rufous underparts, and blackish bill. *H. c. mizorhina* of the Andaman Is has a larger bill and is much darker with purplish upperparts and dark chestnut underparts. **Voice** Call is a descending and high-pitched *tititititititi,* not unlike that of White-throated Kingfisher. Song is a repeated soft, trilling *tyuur-rrrr.* **HH** Pools and streams in dense broadleaved tropical and subtropical evergreen forest; also mangrove swamps.



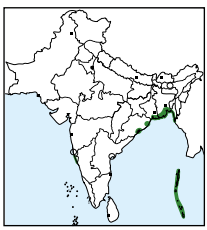
White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis* 27–28 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Large kingfisher with large red bill, chocolate-brown head and underparts, white throat and centre of breast, and brilliant turquoise-blue upperparts including rump and tail. In flight, shows prominent white patches at base of black primaries. Juvenile is duller, with brown bill and dark scalloping on breast. **Voice** Call is a loud, rattling laugh. Song is a drawn-out musical whistle *kililili*. **HH** Wide-ranging habitat, often far from water: cultivation, forest edges, gardens, and freshwater and coastal wetlands.



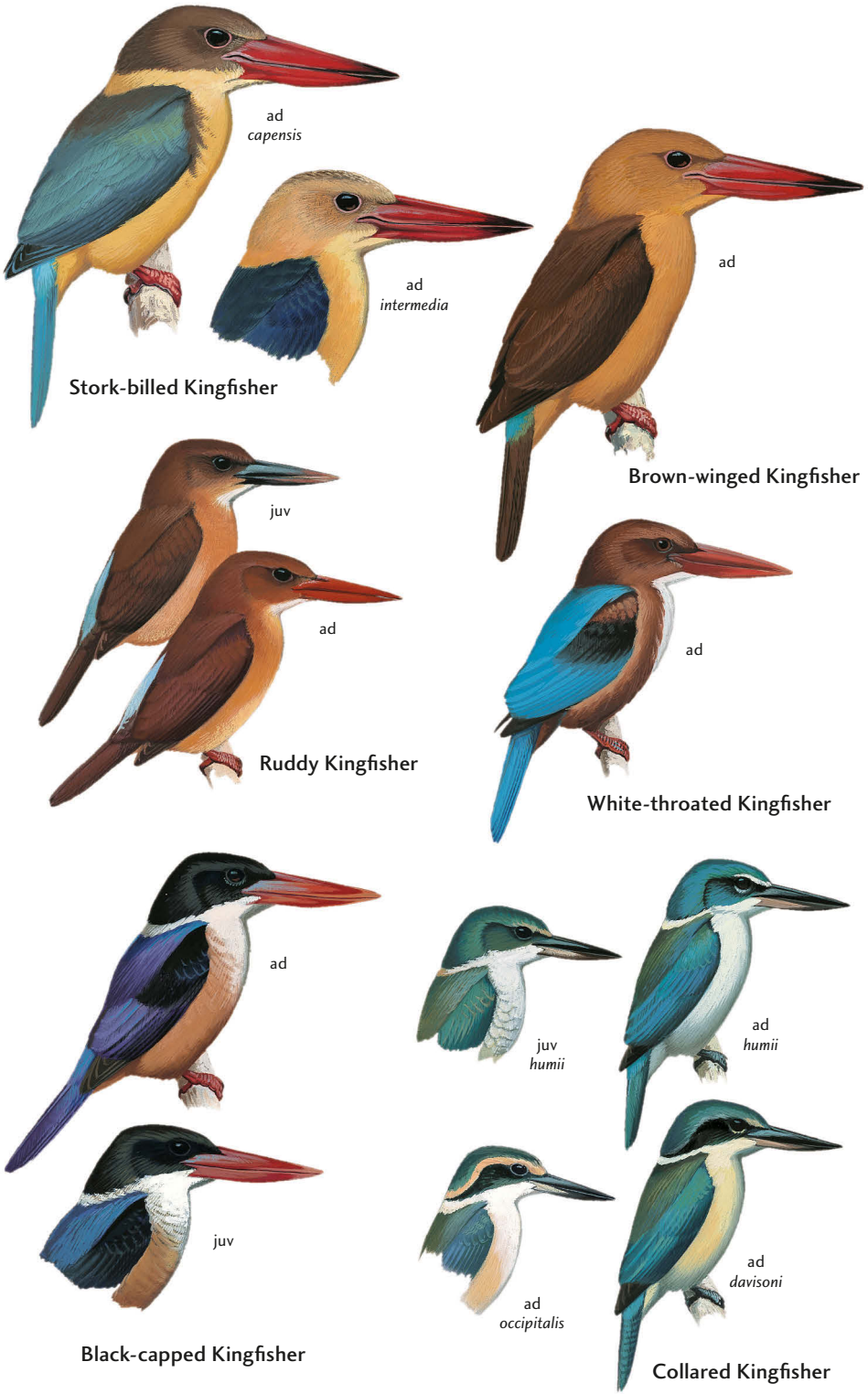
Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata* 28 cm

Resident. Mainly coasts of India and Bangladesh. **ID** Large, mainly coastal kingfisher with coral-red bill. Has black cap, white collar, deep purplish-blue upperparts, black coverts contrasting with blue secondaries, white breast, and pale orange-buff belly and flanks. In flight, shows bright blue rump and prominent white patches at base of primaries. Juvenile has dusky scalloping on collar and breast. **Voice** Utters a distinctive ringing cackle, *kikikikikiki* similar to, but higher-pitched than that of White-throated. **HH** Chiefly coastal wetlands; also inland along larger rivers.



Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris* 23–25 cm

Resident. Locally in E and W India, and Bangladesh. **ID** Medium-sized coastal kingfisher with stout mainly blackish bill, blue-green crown and ear-coverts with short white supercilium, white collar, blue-green mantle and blue wings and tail, and white underparts. Female is duller with scaling on sides of breast. Juvenile has scaling on buffish-white underparts, and has buff supercilium. Lacks white in wing of Black-capped. In the Andaman Is (*T. c. davisoni*) and Nicobar Is (*T. c. occipitalis*) has blackish-green ear-coverts and lower border to nape, and buff wash on underparts. *T. c. davisoni* has a short buffish supercilium, while *occipitalis* has broad rufous-buff supercilia which join at nape to form a second 'collar'. **Voice** Raucous *krerk-krerk-krerk-krerk*. **HH** Coastal wetlands; forest edges on Andamans.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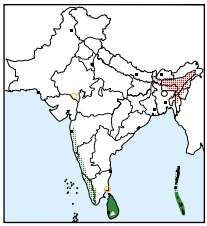
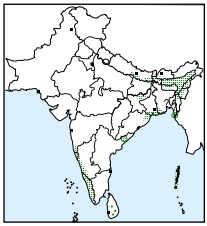
Collared Kingfisher



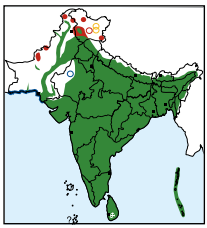
Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca* 14 cm

Summer visitor to E Himalayan foothills and NE India. Resident SW India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. **ID** Tiny forest kingfisher with coral-red bill. Has orange head, with variable violet iridescence on crown and nape, blue-black forehead and 'ear-patch', black upperparts with the coverts and scapulars boldly marked with blue, pale orange underparts, and orange rump and tail also with violet iridescence. Juvenile is duller; bill is initially dark becoming pale yellow-orange. Underparts are whitish with orange breast-band, crown is more orange (less violet), and has less blue in upperparts. **Voice** Call a weak, thin *seet*, thinner and higher-pitched than Blue-eared; contact calls include a weak shrill *tit-sreet* and *tit-tit*. **HH** Shady streams in moist broadleaved forest. **AN** Black-backed Kingfisher.



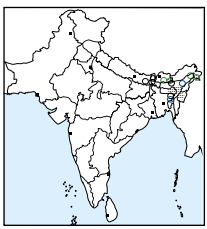
Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting* 17 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE, E and SW India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** From Common by blue ear-coverts (except in juvenile plumage), darker blue upperparts (lacking greenish tones to crown, scapulars and wings), darker brilliant blue back and rump, and deeper orange underparts. Female has red on lower bill. Juvenile has rufous-orange ear-coverts as on Common, but has darker blue upperparts (similar in coloration to adult) and lacks the broad blue moustachial stripe of that species (although can show short black moustachial which does not extend beyond ear-coverts). **Voice** Call is a shrill, single *seet* or *tsit*, higher-pitched and less strident than Common's. Contact calls are thin, shrill *striiiiit, trrrrrt tit... trrrreu* etc. **HH** Mainly streams in dense forest.



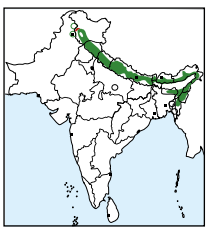
Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* 16 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** From the similar forest-dwelling Blue-eared by orange ear-coverts, paler greenish-blue upperparts, and paler orange underparts. Note however that juvenile Blue-eared has rufous ear-coverts. Female has red on lower mandible. Juvenile is similar to adult, but duller and greener above, with dusky scaling on breast. *A. a. taprobana* (peninsular India and Sri Lanka) is brighter and bluer than the widespread *bengalensis*, and closer in coloration to Blue-eared. **Voice** Call is a high-pitched, shrill *chee*, usually repeated and *chit-it-it* alarm call. **HH** Fresh waters in open country, also mangroves and seashore in winter.



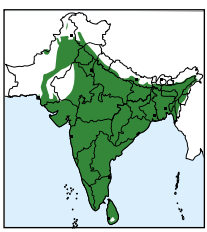
Blyth's Kingfisher *Alcedo hercules* 22 cm

Resident. Mainly NE India. **ID** From Common and Blue-eared by considerably larger size and larger and longer bill, darker greenish-blue (almost brownish-black) coloration to scapulars and wings (with prominent turquoise spotting on lesser and median coverts), almost blackish crown with sharply contrasting turquoise spotting, and less distinct orange loral spot. Female has red on lower mandible. In flight dark mantle and wings contrast with brilliant blue back and rump. **Voice** Similar to Common's, but louder and hoarser. **HH** Shaded streams in dense tropical and subtropical forest.



Crested Kingfisher *Megaceryle lugubris* 41–43 cm

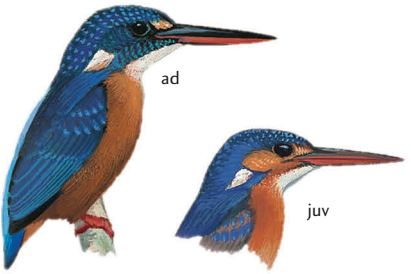
Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Very large with prominent crest, often held open. From the much smaller Pied Kingfisher by lack of white supercilium, complete white neck-collar, finely spotted breast-band (sometimes mixed with rufous), dark grey back and rump finely spotted with paler grey, and dark grey wings and tail finely barred with white (lacking Pied's prominent white patches in wing). Female and juvenile are similar to male, but have pale rufous underwing-coverts. **HH** Rocky, fast-flowing mountain rivers and larger rivers in foothills; rarely by lakes.



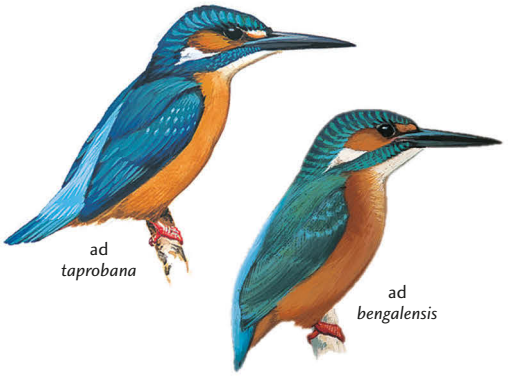
Pied Kingfisher *Ceryle rudis* 25 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Crested black-and-white kingfisher. Has white-streaked black crown and crest, white supercilium contrasting with broad black eye-stripe, white underparts with black breast-band, and black-and-white wings and tail. Male has double breast band. Female has single, usually broken, breast-band. Upperparts of *C. r. travancoreensis* (SW peninsula) appear black, spotted with white (rather than white, spotted with black e.g. as in *C. r. leucomelanura*). **Voice** Utters a sharp *chirruk chirruk*. **HH** Still fresh waters, slow-moving rivers and streams, also tidal creeks and pools.

Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher



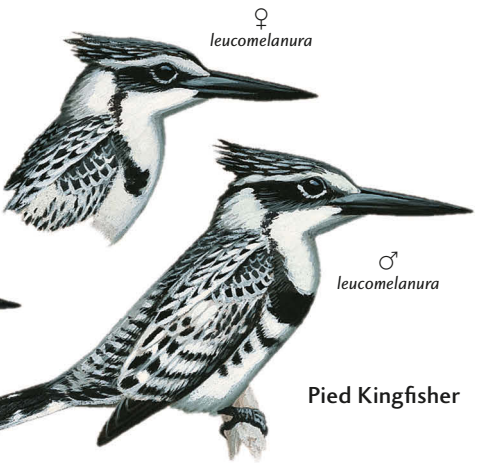
Blue-eared Kingfisher



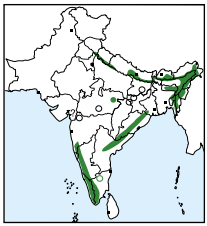
Common Kingfisher

Blyth's Kingfisher

Crested Kingfisher

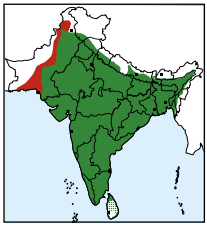


Pied Kingfisher



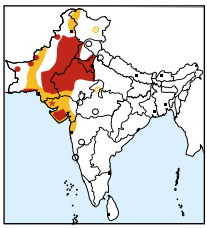
Blue-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis athertoni* 31–34 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE and E India, Western Ghats, hills of W Tamil Nadu and Bangladesh. **ID** Large green bee-eater with a broad square-ended tail. Adult has blue forehead and 'beard', green upperparts, broad greenish streaking on yellowish-buff belly and flanks, and yellowish-buff undertail-coverts and underside to tail. Shows yellowish-buff underwing-coverts in flight. Juvenile is similar to adult and has blue 'beard' even when very young. **Voice** A gruff *gga gga ggr gr* or *kor-r-r kor-r-r*. **HH** Edges and clearings of dense broadleaved forest.



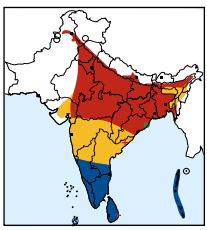
Green Bee-eater *Merops orientalis* 16–18 cm

Widespread resident and summer visitor. **ID** Small with elongated central tail feathers, blue or green throat with black gorget, variable golden-brown to rufous crown and nape, and green tail. Juvenile has square-ended tail; crown and mantle are green, lacks black gorget, and throat is pale yellowish- or bluish-green. *M. o. beludschicus* of the NW subcontinent has blue throat, and green crown and nape with only a faint golden sheen. *M. o. ferrugeiceps* of the NE subcontinent has strong rufous cast to crown, nape and upper mantle, green (not blue) throat with blue cheeks, rufous wash to breast-sides, and is darker green in colour. **Voice** Utters a throaty trill, *tree-tree-tree*. **HH** Open country with scattered trees; sandy areas on coasts; also semi-desert and grazing land.



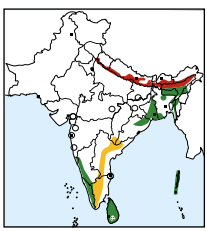
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater *Merops persicus* 24–26 cm

Summer visitor and passage migrant. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** From Blue-tailed by bronze-green tail, whitish forehead and turquoise-and-white supercilium, turquoise and green on ear-coverts, and more restricted chestnut on throat. Upperparts and underparts are a purer green (although may show turquoise wash to belly, rump and tail-coverts). Larger size, yellow chin and chestnut throat, and lack of black gorget are best features from Green. Juvenile similar to juvenile Blue-tailed, but rump, uppertail-coverts and tail generally green (some with a touch of turquoise), and has less extensive but more clearly defined rufous throat. **Voice** A rolling *dirririp*, more polysyllabic that European Bee-eater. **HH** Near water: lakes, irrigation tanks sandy shores in arid areas.



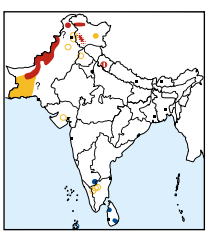
Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* 23–26 cm

Breeds in N and NE subcontinent; winters in peninsula and Sri Lanka. **ID** From Blue-cheeked by blue rump and tail, and forehead and crown are mainly bronze-green (with just a touch of blue on supercilium). Chestnut of throat extends onto ear-coverts, and upperparts and underparts are washed with rufous and turquoise, and has turquoise undertail-coverts. Juvenile as juvenile Blue-cheeked, but with strong blue cast to rump, uppertail-coverts and tail, and more extensive but less well-defined rufous throat. **Voice** As Blue-cheeked. **HH** Near water in more wooded, less dry country than Blue-cheeked.



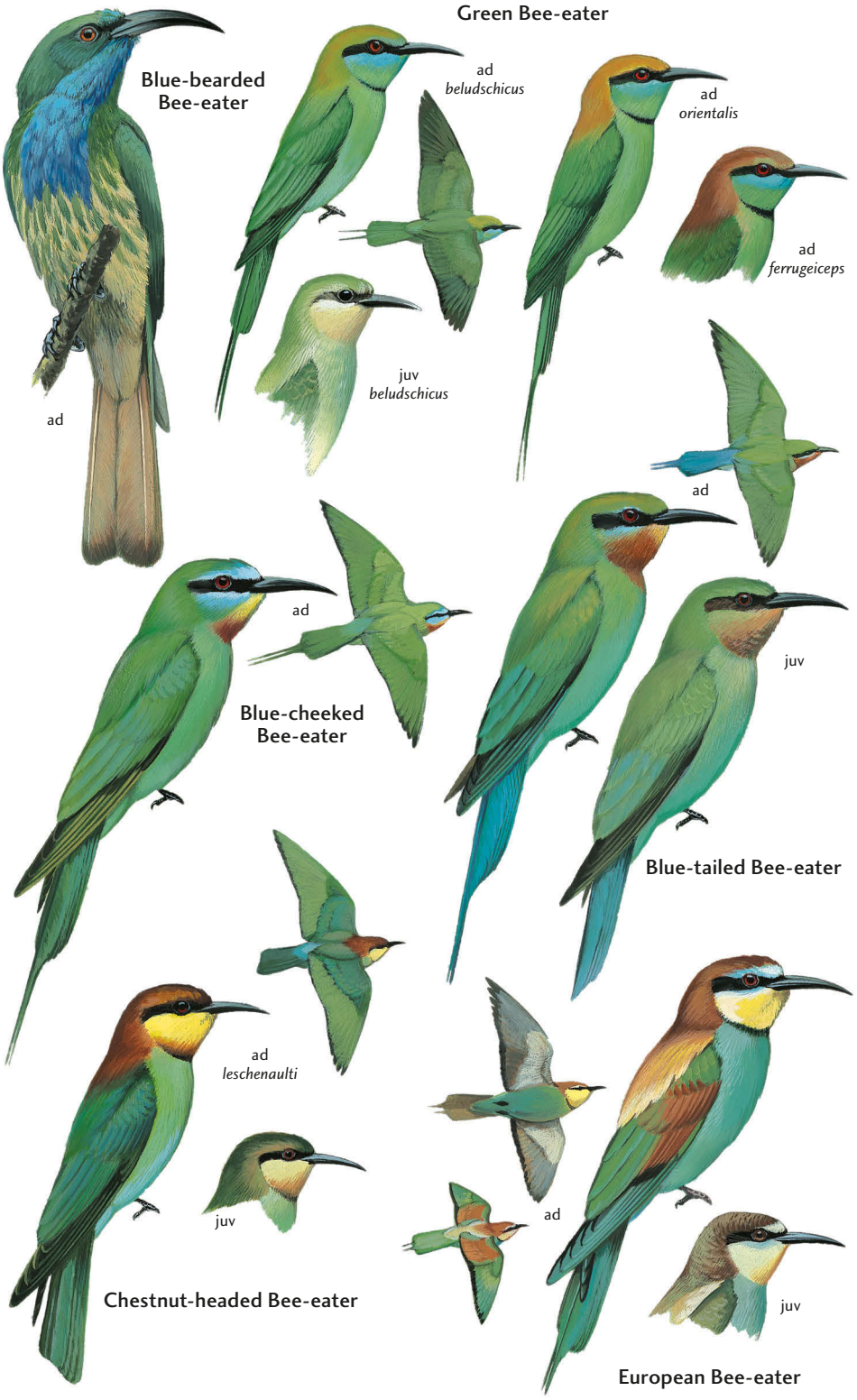
Chestnut-headed Bee-eater *Merops leschenaulti* 18–20 cm

Resident and partial migrant. Himalayas, NE, E, SW and SE India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. From Green by combination of bright chestnut crown, nape and mantle, yellow throat, turquoise rump, and broad tail with shallow fork. Juvenile is duller, with chestnut of upperparts absent or reduced to a wash on crown (crown and nape are a uniform dark green on some). **Voice** Makes a *pruik* or *churit* briefer or less melodious than calls of the larger bee-eaters. **HH** Vicinity of water in deciduous forest.



European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* 23–25 cm

Summer visitor to Vale of Kashmir and N and W Pakistan mountains; passage migrant chiefly in Pakistan; winters in Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult has combination of yellow throat and black gorget, turquoise underparts, chestnut crown, nape, mantle and patch in wing-coverts, golden-yellow scapulars, and green tail. Female is slightly paler, with green in scapulars and less chestnut in wing. Juvenile like washed-out version of adult, with pale fringes to feathers of upperparts and underparts. Lacks elongated central tail feathers and bright chestnut in wing-coverts, and has yellowish-white throat. **Voice** A cheerful, throaty *threep*. **HH** Open country, cultivation, and vicinity of lakes and watercourses.


Green Bee-eater
Blue-bearded Bee-eater
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Chestnut-headed Bee-eater
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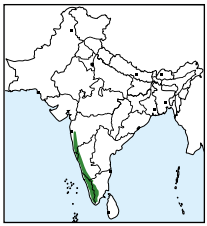
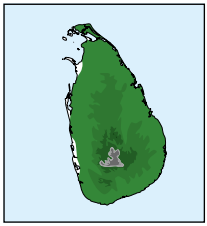
European Bee-eater



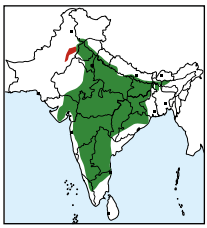
Malabar Grey Hornbill *Ocyceros griseus* 45 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** Has greyish-white supercilium which broadens behind eye and contrasts with darker ear-coverts. Similar to Indian Grey Hornbill, but lacks prominent casque and has mainly orange or yellow bill. Further, has greyish-white streaking on head and neck, darker grey upperparts, rufous undertail-coverts, and shorter dark grey tail. In flight, lacks white trailing edge to secondaries. Sexes alike, although female has paler yellow bill and with black at base and along culmen. Immature has smaller bill, lacking dark marks at base; also has rufous fringes to mantle and coverts, and less pronounced supercilium. **Voice** A raucous *waa waa* and a maniacal laughing *waa... waa... wa-wa-wa-wa-wa*. **HH** Open forest.



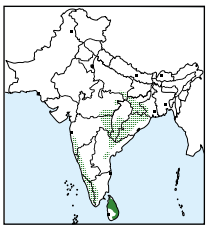
Sri Lanka Grey Hornbill *Ocyceros gingalensis* 45 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** The only grey hornbill occurring in Sri Lanka. Superficially resembles Malabar, but lacks broad greyish-white supercilium and has white underparts. In addition, has steel-grey wing-coverts with distinct black fringes. Outer tail feathers are almost entirely white on older birds (but otherwise are dark grey with white tips, as on Malabar). Male has mainly cream-coloured bill with black patches at base. Female has mainly black bill with cream stripe along cutting edge of upper mandible. Immature has smaller pale yellowish bill and less pronounced head pattern. **Voice** A loud *kaa... kaa... kakakaka…* or *kuk…kuk-kuk-kuk*. **HH** Forest and well-wooded areas.



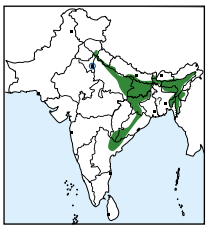
Indian Grey Hornbill *Ocyceros birostris* 50 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Has broad greyish-white supercilium with dark grey ear-coverts, white tips to primaries and secondaries, and white-tipped tail. Has prominent blackish casque, and more extensive black at base of bill compared with Malabar. Further, lacks pale streaking on head, neck and breast, has paler sandy brownish-grey coloration to upperparts, and white trailing edge to secondaries. Tail is also longer than on Malabar Grey, and paler brown with dark grey subterminal band and elongated central feathers. Female is similar to male, but has smaller casque with less pronounced tip. Immature has bill as female's, but smaller and with smaller casque; lacks white wing-tips. **Voice** Calls include a loud cackling *k-k-k-ka-e,* rapid piping *pi-pi-pi-pi-pipipieu-pipipieu-pipipieu* and kite-like *chee-oowww*. **HH** Open forest and wooded areas with fruiting trees.



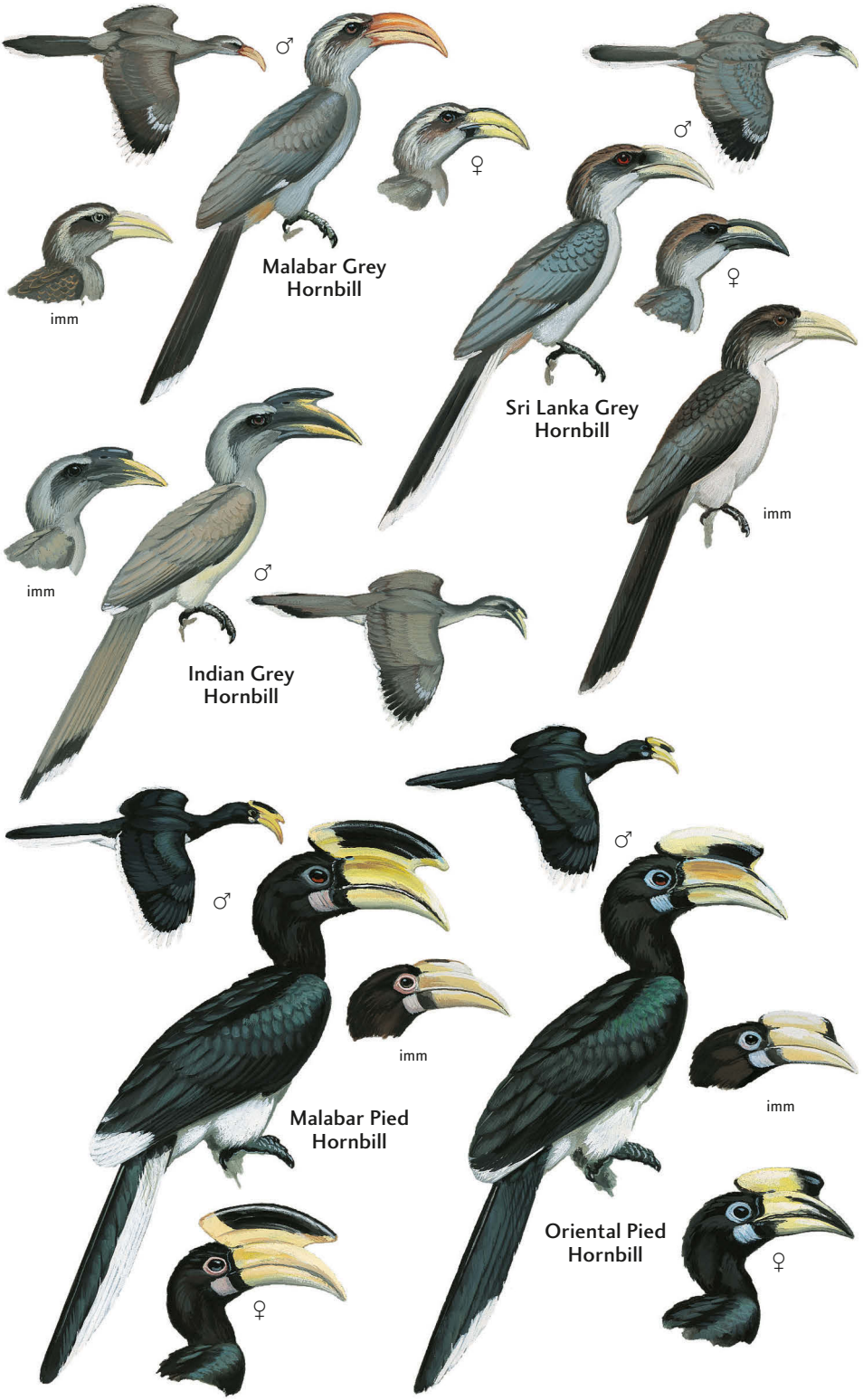
Malabar Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros coronatus* 65 cm

Resident. Western Ghats, E India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Very similar to the smaller Oriental Pied Hornbill, but has different casque shape and patterning (axe-shaped in both sexes, with pronounced tip, and large black patch along upper ridge). Also has white outer tail feathers (can show black at base of these, especially on immatures, but this is not as extensive as on Oriental), broader white trailing edge to wings (with broad white tips to all but innermost secondaries), and pinkish throat patches. Sexes are similar; female has a slightly smaller casque than male (and lacks black at posterior end), although it is similar in shape, and has pinkish (blue-black on male) circumorbital skin. Bill lacks black at tip (unlike on female Oriental Pied). Immature has smaller bill and casque. **Voice** A variety of loud, shrill, nasal squeals and raucous chucks. **HH** Open forest and large fruit trees near villages.



Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* 55–60 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE India and E India, and Bangladesh. **ID** Very similar to the larger Malabar, and best distinguished by casque patterning and shape (cylindrical, with black patch restricted to tip). Also has mainly black tail with white tips to all but central feathers, narrower white trailing edge to secondaries, and pale blue (rather than pink) throat patches. Sexes are similar, but female is smaller with less convex casque lacking projecting tip, and has black at tip of bill and casque. Both sexes have pale blue circumorbital skin. Immature has smaller bill and casque with less black; orbital skin and throat patch are whitish. **Voice** A variety of loud, shrill, nasal squeals and raucous chucks. **HH** Open forest, groves and large fruit trees near villages.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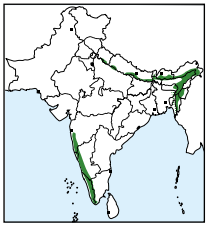
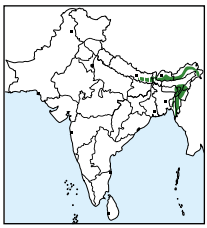
Brown Hornbill *Anorrhinus tickelli* 60–75 cm

Resident. NE India. **ID** Medium-sized brown hornbill with large and stout pale bill and casque. Male has white cheeks, throat and upper breast, and rufous-brown lower breast and belly. In flight, has white tips to tail (except central feathers) and to primaries. Female has entire underparts dusky brown, with pale streaking on crown and sides of head and rufous edging to feathers of throat and breast; lacks white tips to primaries and tail. Both sexes have small buffish-white panel across primaries. Immature is similar to adult male, but underparts are paler, has pale brown tips to wing-coverts, and orbital skin is pinkish (blue in adult). **Voice** A high-pitched yelp and piercing screams. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen forest.



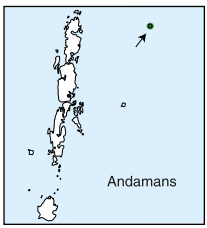
Great Hornbill *Buceros bicornis* 95–105 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India, Bangladesh and Western Ghats. **ID** Huge size, massive yellow casque and bill, and white tail with black subterminal band. Has black face band contrasting with yellowish-white nape, neck and upper breast. In flight, shows broad whitish wing-bar and trailing edge to wing. Neck, breast, white wing-bars and base of tail typically stained yellow with preen-gland oils. Male has red iris, black circumorbital skin, and black at each end of casque. Female smaller, with a smaller bill, white iris and red circumorbital skin, and lacks black at ends of casque. Immature lacks casque until at least six months old. **Voice** Loud, deep calls, often in a short series and frequently given as a duet. Flight call is a loud *ger-onk*. **HH** Mature broadleaved forest.



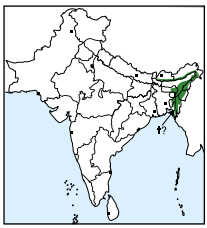
Rufous-necked Hornbill *Aceros nipalensis* 90–100 cm

Resident. E Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male from male Wreathed Hornbill by bright rufous head, neck and underparts, black and white (rather than all-white) tail, scarlet gular pouch, and blue orbital skin. Female is mainly black, and is best told from female Wreathed by red throat and white terminal band to tail. Both sexes show dark ridges on upper mandible. In flight, both sexes show white wing-tips. Immature is similar to adult male, but neck is browner and bill is smaller and unmarked. **Voice** Utters a short, repeated, monosyllabic bark, higher-pitched but otherwise similar to Great Hornbill's call. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen forest. Globally threatened.



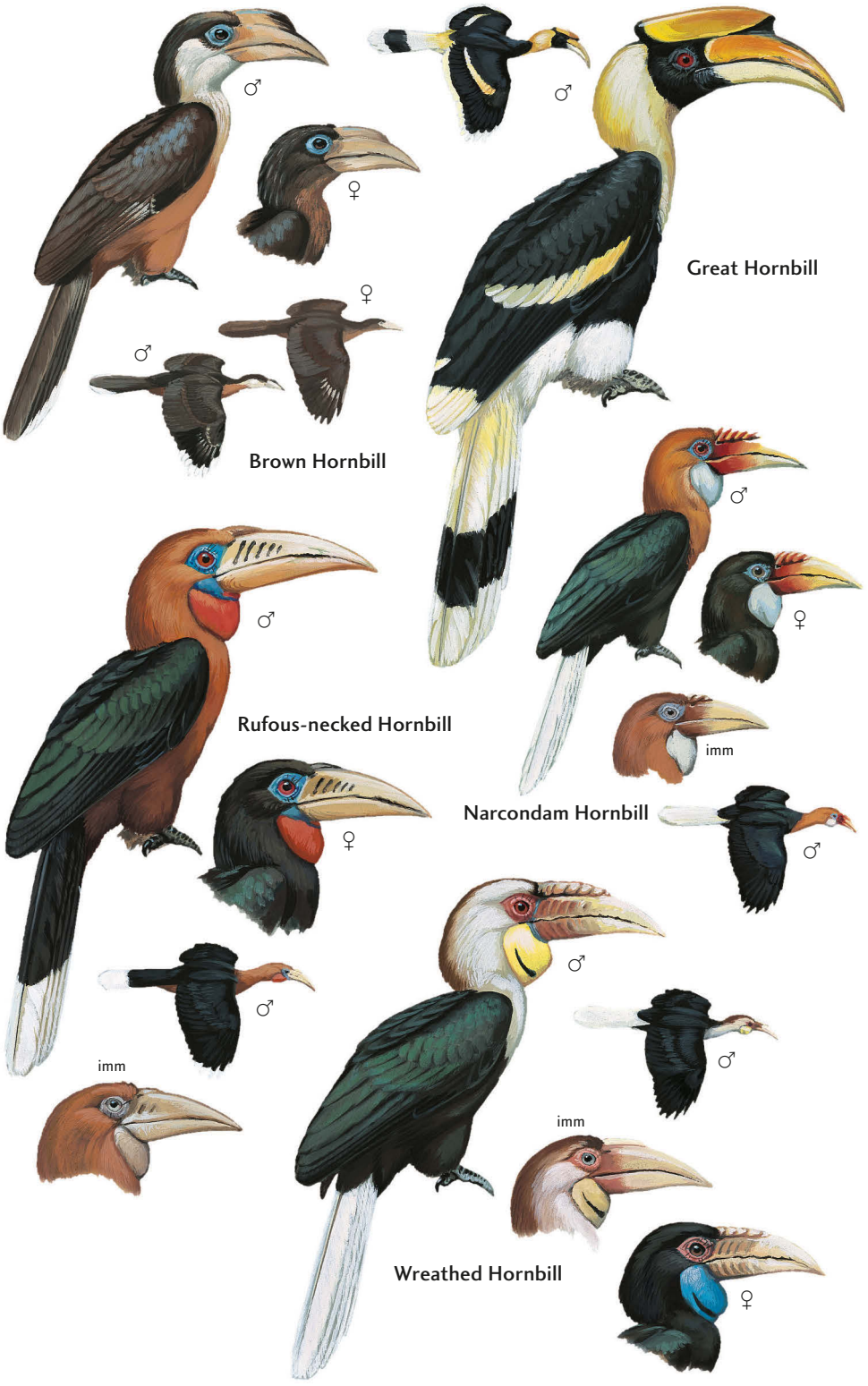
Narcondam Hornbill *Rhyticeros narcondami* 45–50 cm

Resident. Narcondam I, Andamans. **ID** The only hornbill occurring on Narcondam I. Like small version of Rufous-necked, but lacks black at base of tail and has bluish-white pouch. Male has rufous head and neck, yellowish-white bill with crimson at base, and blue circumorbital skin. Female has all-black head and neck, and iris is dark olive-brown (rather than reddish as in male). Immature is similar to adult male, but head and neck are browner and initially lacks casque; has less red at base of bill, and pale grey iris. Casque is grown, but not wreathed, by end of first year. **Voice** A cackling *ka-ka-ka-ka-ka*. Mature forest. **HH** Globally threatened. **TN** Formerly placed in *Aceros*.



Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulatus* 75–85 cm

Resident. E Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male from the slightly larger Rufous-necked by whitish sides of head, foreneck and upper breast (with rufous-brown crown and nape), and entirely white tail. Has yellow gular pouch (with dark bar) and reddish circumorbital skin. Female has black head and neck, and is best told from female Rufous-necked by blue pouch, reddish circumorbital skin, and all-white tail. Both sexes have prominent corrugated casque. In flight, both sexes have all-black wings. Immature is similar to adult male, but initially lacks casque and corrugations on bill; eyes are pale blue rather than red (adult male) or brown (adult female). Corrugations on sides of bill, and casque, begin to develop in first year, with new 'wreaths' added approximately once each year. **Voice** Gives a very loud, gasping *uk-hweerk*, with emphasised second note; less harsh and grating than similar calls of Great Hornbill. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Aceros*.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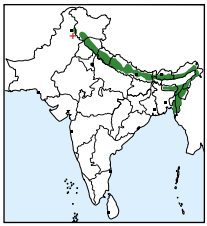
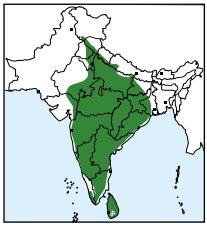


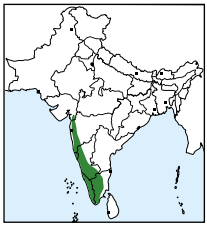
Great Barbet *Megalaima virens* 33 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Largest of the barbets and unmistakable, with large pale yellow bill, violet-blue head, brown breast and mantle, olive-streaked yellowish underparts, and red undertail-coverts. Duller and paler in W Himalayan *M. v. marshallorum*, with more extensive yellowish-green streaking on hind neck. Juvenile is duller with greener head. **Voice** Call is a monotonous, incessant and far-reaching *piho piho* uttered throughout the day. A repetitious *tuk tuk* is often uttered in a duet (presumably by the female). **HH** Usually keeps singly or in groups of up to five or six, but congregates in feeding parties of up to 30 or more in fruit-laden trees. Mainly moist, subtropical and temperate forest; also well-wooded country.



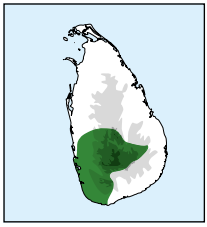
Brown-headed Barbet *Megalaima zeylanica* 27 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** From the similar Lineated Barbet by much finer whitish streaking on head and breast (which look more uniformly brown), brown chin and throat concolorous with breast, and virtual absence of streaking on belly and flanks. In addition, has whitish-tipped wing-coverts (although rather indistinct in *inornata*), more extensive bare orange patch around eye which extends to the bill (eye-patch becoming yellow in non-breeding season), and deeper reddish-orange bill (becoming orange-brown in non-breeding season). *M. z. inornata* of W India has more uniform brown head and breast with less prominent streaking than northern *M. z. caniceps*, while *M. z. zeylanica* of SW India and Sri Lanka has darker brown head and breast and more prominent streaking on nape and breast than *inornata*. **Voice** Call is a monotonous *kutroo, kutroo, kutroo* or *kutruk, kutruk, kutruk* uttered throughout the day. Very noisy in hot weather, often calling in chorus. **HH** Found singly or in small feeding groups and in parties of up to 20 or more, sometimes with other frugivorous birds, such as green pigeons, bulbuls and mynas, in favoured fruiting trees. Broadleaved forest, wooded areas and trees near habitation.



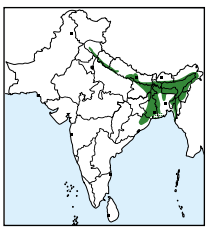
White-cheeked Barbet *Megalaima viridis* 23 cm

Resident. Western Ghats and hills of Tamil Nadu. **ID** From Brown-headed by smaller size, shorter brownish bill, bold white cheek patch and white supercilium (contrasting with black around eye and dark brown crown and nape), whitish chin and throat, and bold white spotting on breast. Juvenile is similar, but brown of head is paler, and throat and breast are whiter (with indistinct brown streaking). **Voice** Call is very similar to Brown-headed's, a *pucock, pucock, pucock*. **HH** Habits are similar to Brown-headed's. Very pugnacious when feeding. Often climbs along branches and up trunks like a woodpecker. Broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous wooded areas, gardens, groves.



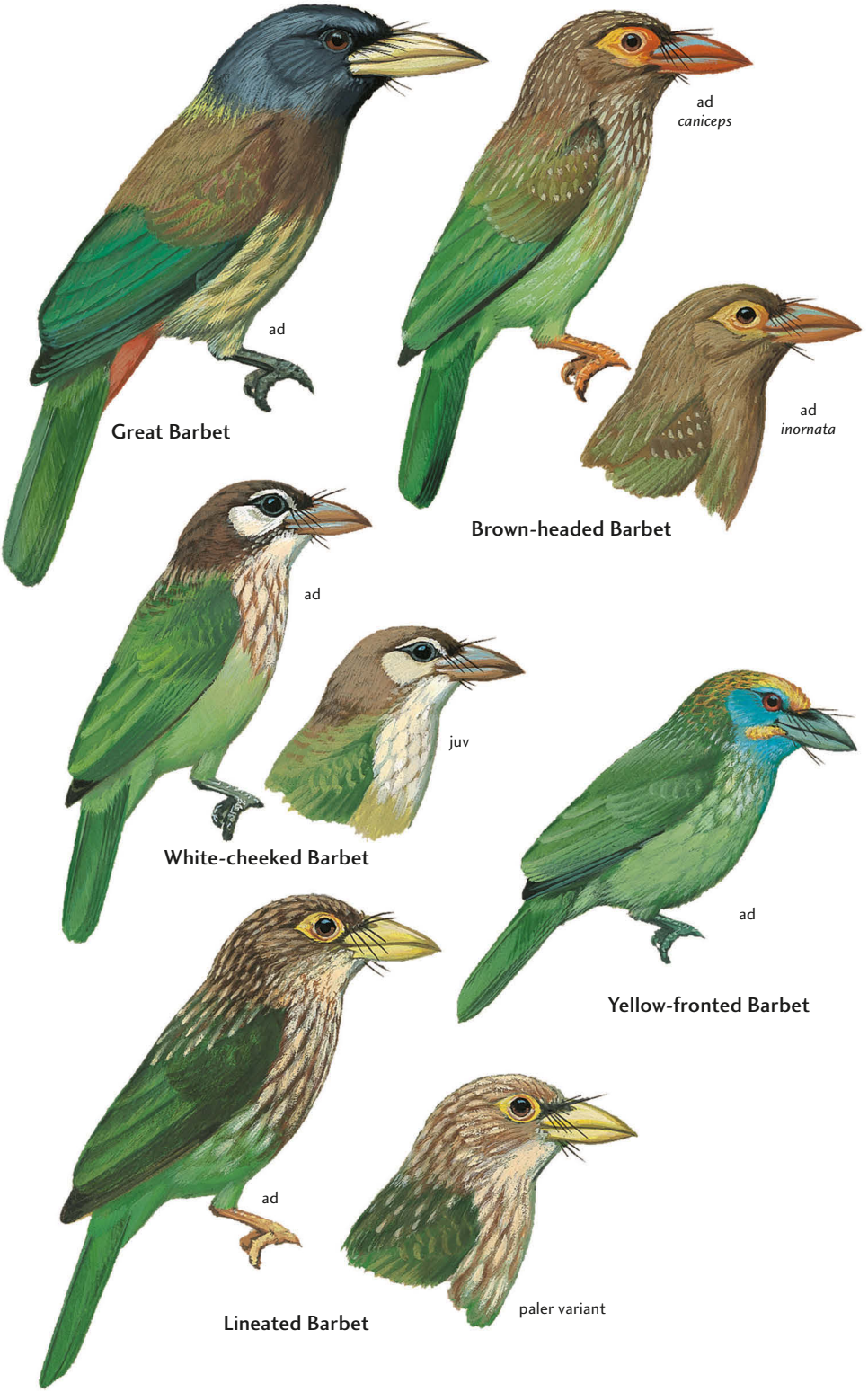
Yellow-fronted Barbet *Megalaima flavifrons* 21 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** A medium-sized, mainly green barbet. Has yellow forehead, forecrown and malar stripe, and pale blue ear-coverts, throat and upper breast. Also has paler centres to green breast feathers, resulting in scaled appearance, and dark legs and feet. **Voice** Call is a rolling, ascending *kowowowowowo* which changes into a repetitive *kuiar kuiar, kuiar*. **HH** Habits are similar to Brown-headed's. Broadleaved forest and well-wooded gardens.



Lineated Barbet *Megalaima lineata* 28 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE and E India, and Bangladesh. **ID** From the similar Brown-headed by bold white streaking on head, upper mantle and breast (and extending onto centre of belly), with usually whitish chin and throat (although can be dusky brown on some). Underparts can look white, streaked with brown. In addition, has less extensive naked yellowish patch around eye which (unlike on Brown-headed) is usually separated from the yellowish (not orange) bill, and uniform unspotted wing-coverts. Juvenile has less prominent streaking and is more like Brown-headed, but with orbital skin as adult and with unspotted wing-coverts. Note differences in range. **Voice** Call is a monotonous *kotur, kotur, kotur*, slightly mellower and softer than Brown-headed's. **HH** Habits are similar to those of Brown-headed. Open deciduous forest, well-wooded areas and roadside avenues with fruiting trees.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Great Barbet
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caniceps
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Brown-headed Barbet
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White-cheeked Barbet
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Yellow-fronted Barbet
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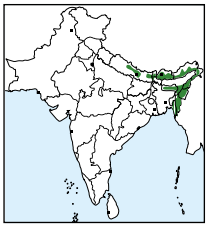
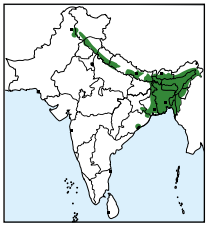
paler variant
Lineated Barbet



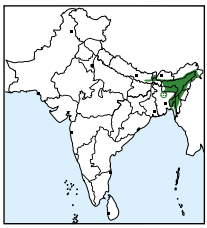
Golden-throated Barbet *Megalaima franklinii* 23 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** A medium-sized barbet, From Blue-throated Barbet by broad black stripe through eye, greyish-white (not blue) cheeks, and yellow crown centre, chin and upper throat. From below, from smaller Coppersmith Barbet by uniform green breast and dark legs and feet. Juvenile is duller and yellow is less prominent. **Voice** Call is a wailing, repetitive *peeyu, peeyu*, recalling Great but higher-pitched; also a monotonous *pukwowk, pukwowk, pukwowk*. **HH** Habits are very similar to Brown-headed's. Moist, broadleaved subtropical and temperate forest.



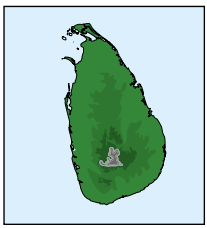
Blue-throated Barbet *Megalaima asiatica* 23 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** A medium-sized barbet, with red forehead, black band across centre of crown, red hind crown, and blue 'face', throat and upper breast. In NE, possibly confusable with Blue-eared Barbet, but is larger, has red on crown, uniform blue sides of head, and larger pale bill (with variable dark culmen and tip). Juvenile is similar to adult, but head pattern is duller and poorly defined (with red of crown intermixed with green and black). **Voice** Call is a loud, harsh *took-a-rook, took-a-rook* uttered very rapidly. **HH** Habits are similar to Brown-headed's. Evergreen and deciduous trees, especially fig; open forest, groves and gardens.



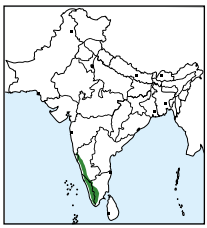
Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis* 17 cm

Resident. E Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** A small barbet with black forehead, blue throat and complex black, blue, red and yellow patterning on sides of head. Easily told from the larger Blue-throated by blackish forehead and blue crown, multi-coloured face, and smaller all-dark bill. Juvenile is mainly green, with blue wash to 'face' and throat, and lacks black and red head markings. **Voice** Call is a disyllabic, repetitive *tk-trrt* repeated about 120 times a minute, and a throaty whistle. **HH** Habits are similar to Coppersmith's. Dense, broadleaved evergreen forest.



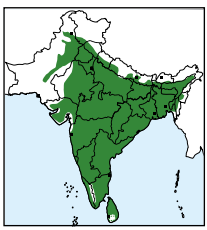
Crimson-fronted Barbet *Megalaima rubricapillus* 17 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Small size. From Coppersmith by orange (rather than yellow) supercilium, cheeks, throat and upper breast, smaller and less distinct red patch on breast, unstreaked green belly and flanks, and diffuse blue patch on sides of head and neck. Juvenile duller than adult, and lacking striking 'face' pattern and streaked underparts of juvenile Coppersmith; predominantly green with traces of adult head pattern (e.g. yellow on throat, blue wash on neck sides and moustachial stripe, and orange-yellow on cheeks and supercilium). **Voice** Song is a slow, repeated *pop, pop, pop…* and a rapidly repeated *popo-popo-popo-pop* with a variable number of syllables. **HH** Habits are similar to Coppersmith's. Open wooded country.



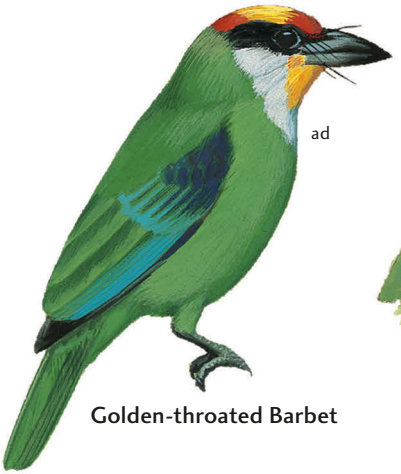
Malabar Barbet *Megalaima malabarica* 17 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** From the similar-sized Coppersmith by crimson cheeks, throat and breast, black streaking on breast, unstreaked green belly and flanks, and diffuse blue band down sides of head and breast. Juvenile mainly green with traces of red on forehead and throat; unstreaked underparts are best feature from juvenile Coppersmith. **Voice** Call is very similar to Coppersmith, although possibly softer and quicker, a fast-delivered *poop, poop, poop* etc. **HH** Restricted to moist evergreen biotope where it replaces Coppersmith. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Crimson-fronted Barbet *M. rubricapillus*.

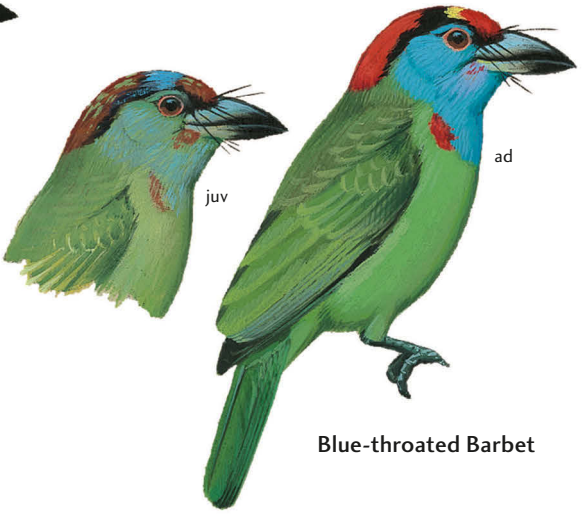


Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala* 17 cm

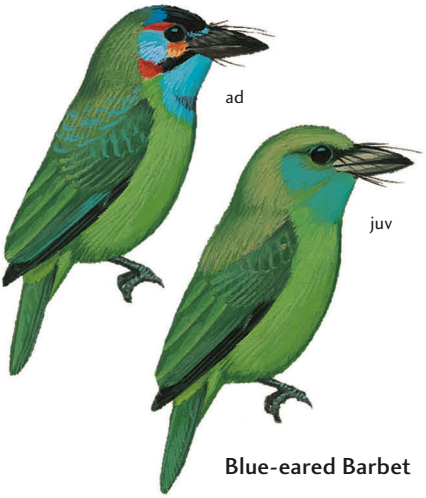
Resident. Widespread east of Indus R. **ID** A small, brightly coloured barbet, with crimson forehead and patch on breast, yellow patches above and below eye contrasting with blackish hind crown and sides of head, yellow throat, dark streaking on belly and flanks, and bright red legs and feet. Juvenile lacks red on forehead and breast; has prominent pale yellow patches above and below eye (surrounded by dark olive sides of head and moustachial stripe), whitish throat, olive-green breast-band, and broad olive-green streaking on belly and flanks. **Voice** Call is a loud, metallic, monotonous, repetitive *tuk, tuk, tuk* etc. **HH** May climb up trunks like a woodpecker. Particularly vocal in the heat of the day. Open wooded country, groves and wooded urban gardens



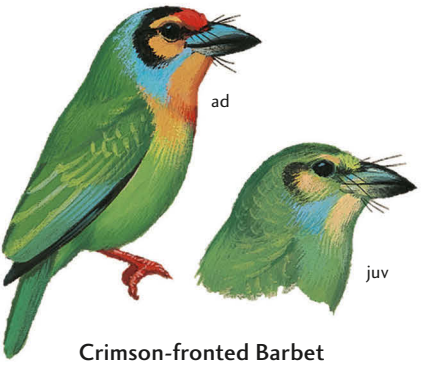
Golden-throated Barbet



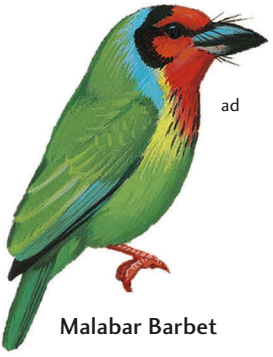
Blue-throated Barbet



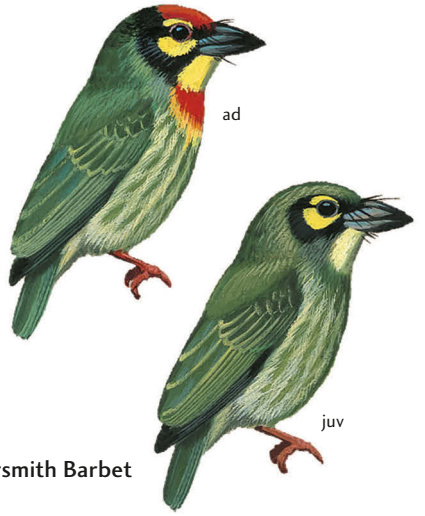
Blue-eared Barbet



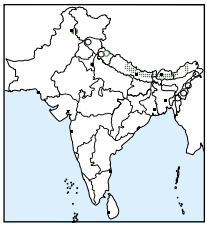
Crimson-fronted Barbet



Malabar Barbet

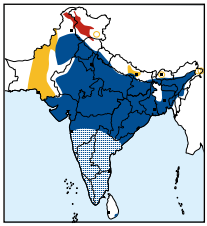


Coppersmith Barbet



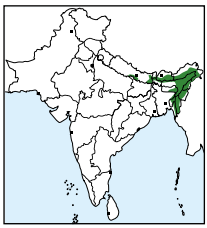
Yellow-rumped Honeyguide *Indicator xanthonotus* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Finch-like with stout bill. Has a bright orange-yellow forehead, narrow olive-yellow edges to feathers of mantle and wings, golden-yellow lower back and rump, and dark, square-ended tail. Inner edges of tertials are white, forming parallel lines down back. Male has broad golden-yellow malar stripes, which are ill-defined on the smaller, duller female. **Voice** A single *weet* uttered on the wing. **HH** Near Giant Rock Bee nests on cliffs, and adjacent forest. Often clings to honeycomb. Also catches bees and other insects, which it catches in clumsy aerial sallies in flycatcher-like manner.



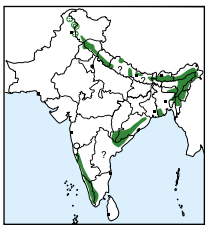
Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* 16–17 cm

Breeds in NW Himalayas; widespread in winter. **ID** Cryptically patterned with grey, buff and brown. Has dark stripe through eye, irregular dark stripe down nape and mantle, buff to pale rufous throat and breast which are finely barred with black, and long, barred tail. **Voice** A piping *kek-kek-kek*. **HH** Summers in open forest; winters in open scrub and cultivation edges. Feeds mainly on ground, hopping along with tail slightly raised and picking up ants and other insects.



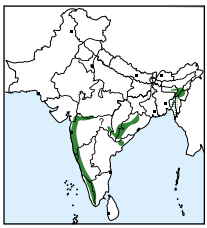
White-browed Piculet *Sasia ochracea* 9–10 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Tiny size and tailless appearance. Has greenish-olive upperparts (variably washed with rufous) and rufous underparts, very short black tail, fine white supercilium behind eye, and red iris and orbital skin. Male has golden-yellow on forehead, which is rufous on female. **Voice** Call is a short, sharp *chi*. Rapid, tinny drumming; also taps loudly on bamboo. **HH** Bushes and bamboo in forest and secondary growth.



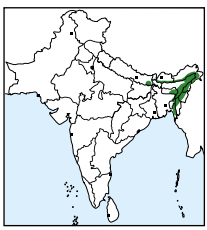
Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of SW, E and NE India, and Bangladesh. **ID** Tiny size. Has whitish face broken by blackish ear-covert patch and malar stripe, and white to yellowish-white underparts heavily spotted with black. Also greyish crown, yellowish-green upperparts, and short, square-ended blackish tail with white on central and outer feathers. Male has dull orange forehead and forecrown, barred with black. Female has uniform forehead and crown. **Voice** A sharp *tsick,* a high-pitched *sik-sik-sik* a *ti-ti-ti* and loud drumming. **HH** Bushes and bamboo in forest and secondary growth.



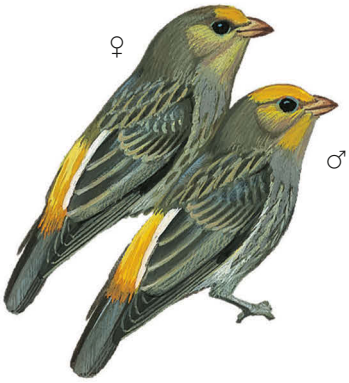
Heart-spotted Woodpecker *Hemicircus canente* 16 cm

Resident. Hills of W, E and NE India. **ID** Looks top-heavy both at rest and in flight, with large crested head and very short tail (the latter obscured by wings at rest). Easily identified by prominent black crest, black heart-shaped spotting on white tertials and some coverts and scapulars, and white throat, becoming dusky olive or grey on rest of underparts. Shows white rump in flight. Female has white forehead and forecrown. Juvenile is similar to female, but forehead and forecrown are spotted with black, and feathers of upperparts have narrow whitish fringes. **Voice** Calls include a weak, nasal *ki-yew,* a high-pitched *kee…kee* and a quarrelsome *kirrrick*. **HH** Broadleaved forest and coffee plantations.



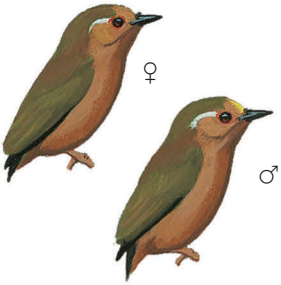
Pale-headed Woodpecker *Gecinulus grantia* 25 cm

Resident. E Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** A smallish, mainly unbarred woodpecker with small, pale bill. Easily distinguished by golden-olive head and neck, dull crimson to crimson-brown upperparts, brown primaries barred with buffish-pink, and dark olive underparts. Male has crimson-pink on crown. **Voice** Territorial call is reminiscent of Bay's a loud, strident *yi-wee-wee-wee;* other calls are harsh, high-pitched and quickly repeated *grrritj-trrit-grrit* etc. **HH** Drumming is loud, evenly pitched and fairly short duration. Bamboo jungle.

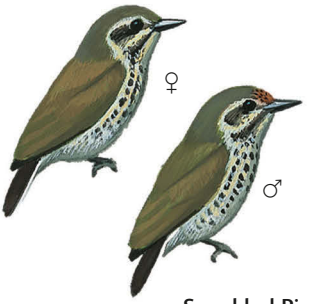


Yellow-rumped Honeyguide

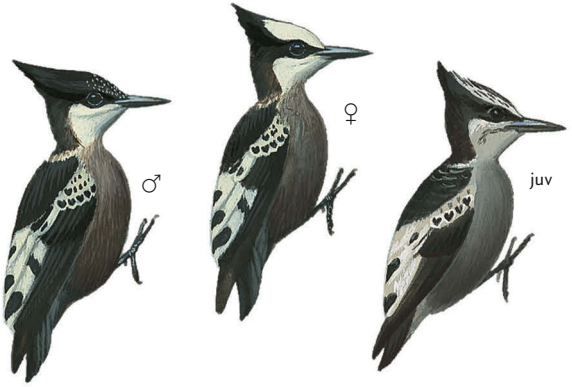
Eurasian Wryneck



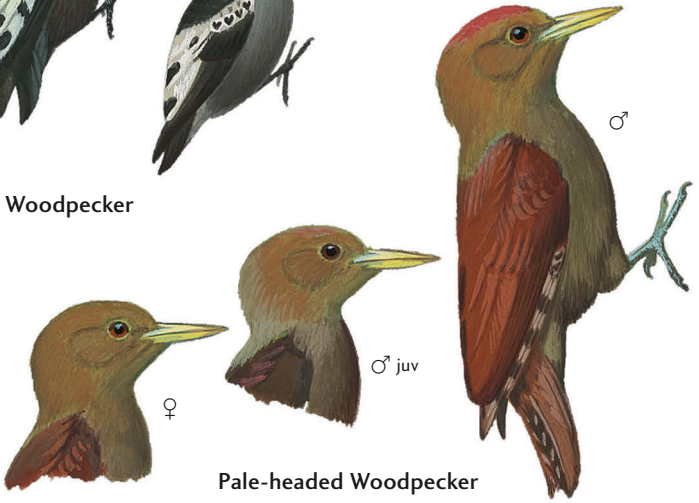
White-browed Piculet



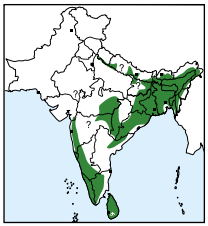
Speckled Piculet



Heart-spotted Woodpecker

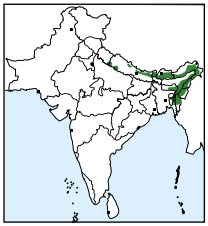


Pale-headed Woodpecker



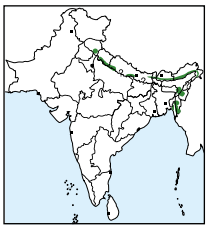
Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus* 25 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE, E and W India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** A medium-sized, rufous-brown woodpecker with shaggy crest and short black bill. Heavily barred with black on mantle, wings, flanks and tail. Male has small scarlet flash on ear-coverts. Female has pale buff ear-coverts. Smaller size, and black bill with distinct curve to culmen, are best distinctions from Bay Woodpecker. **Voice** A high-pitched, nasal *keenk keenk kenk*. Diagnostic drumming like stalling engine *bdddd-d-d-d-dt*. **HH** Shy. Forages in trees at all heights; often seen digging into tree-ant nests, which it favours; also feeds on ground on fallen rotten logs, termite nests and cow dung. Forest and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Celeus*.



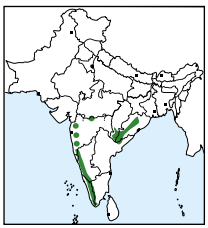
Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis* 27 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Rufous by long yellowish-white bill. It is also larger, with more angular head shape, and has more broadly barred and brighter rufous upperparts, diffuse streaking on forehead and crown, darker brown underparts, and largely unbarred tail. Male has prominent scarlet patch on sides of neck, extending onto nape. Female lacks scarlet patch. Juvenile has more prominent barring on mantle, diffuse rufous and dark brown barring on underparts, and more prominent pale streaking on head. **Voice** Loud descending laughter *keek, keek-keek-keek-keek-kerere-kerere*. **HH** Dense broadleaved forest and secondary growth.



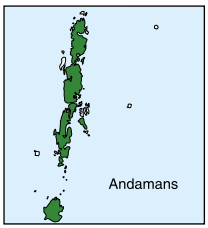
Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* 51 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Giant slate-grey woodpecker with huge pale bill, long neck and long tail. Has yellowish-buff chin, throat and foreneck and fine white spotting on head, neck and underparts. Male has pinkish-red moustachial patch and pink on lower throat (lacking in female). Juvenile has brown cast to upperparts. **Voice** A loud bleating, like a goat; very loud cackle in flight. **HH** Mature trees in tropical forest and forest clearings. Forages chiefly on trunks and major branches in large trees. Often in flocks. Birds follow each other in flight, which is less undulating than that of other woodpeckers, with slow deliberate wing-beats. Globally threatened.



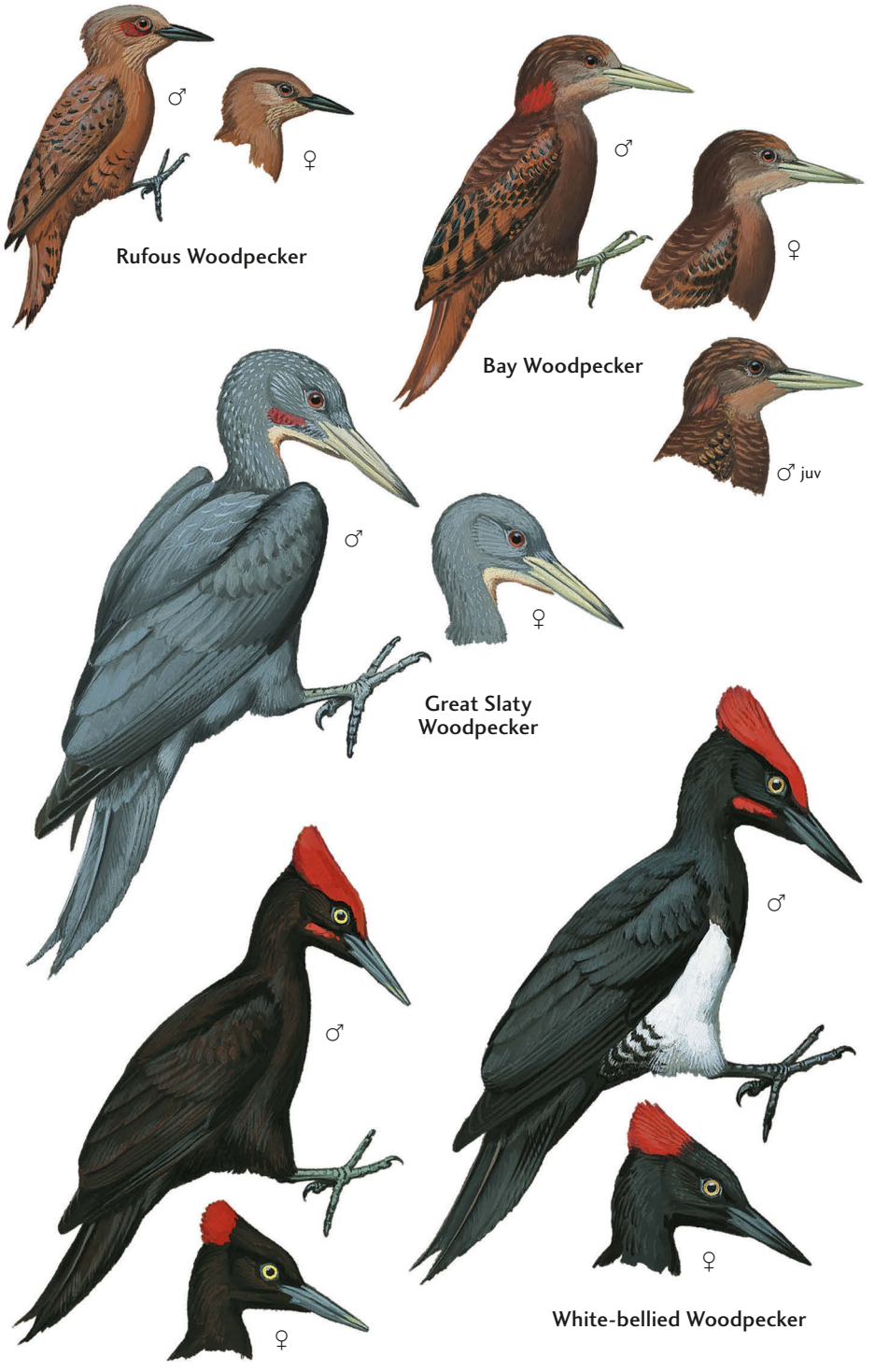
White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* 48 cm

Resident. Western and Eastern Ghats. **ID** A large black woodpecker with a white belly. Occasionally white barring on lower flanks and belly. Male has a red crown and moustachial stripe; red only apparent on the hind crown in female. In flight, shows a white rump and underwing-coverts, and a small white patch at base of primaries. **Voice** A resounding metallic *chiank* and a short, ringing chuckle. **HH** Forest and secondary growth with tall trees. A noisy woodpecker, excavating and frequently hammering more loudly than other woodpeckers. Forages on both live and dead trees, large fallen logs or dead stumps. Has slow, deliberate wing-beats rather like a crow's.



Andaman Woodpecker *Dryocopus hodgei* 38 cm

Resident. Andaman Is. **ID** A large blackish woodpecker. Male has a red crown, crest and moustachial stripe; the red is restricted to the hind crown and crest on the female. **Voice** A loud, chattering *kuk-kuk-kuk* ending in a whistling *kui*. **HH** Habits are very similar to those of White-bellied Woodpecker. Forest.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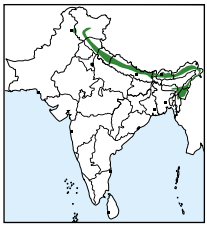
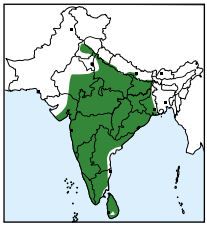


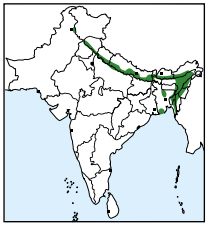
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker *Dendrocopos hyperythrus* 20 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Distinctive with white-barred mantle and wings, whitish face, and uniform rufous underparts. Male has red crown and nape (more extensive in west of range). Female has white-spotted black crown and nape. Immature has blackish streaking on buff throat and blackish barring on rufous-buff underparts, and both sexes show scarlet feather tips on blackish crown. **Voice** A rapid, high *tik-tik-tik-tik*. **HH** Subtropical and temperate forest.



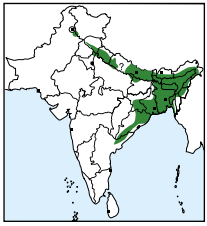
Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos nanus* 13 cm

Resident. Widespread; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** From Grey-capped Woodpecker by brown crown (warmer coloured than mantle), browner upperparts, and greyish-white to brownish-white underparts which are streaked (sometimes faintly) with brown. Further, throat is evenly mottled and streaked with brown, and stripe behind eye is brown and concolorous with crown. White spotting on central tail feathers is a further feature (although see Grey-capped). Male has small crimson patch on sides of hind crown. *D. n. gymnopthalmus* (Sri Lanka) has darker brown crown concolorous with upperparts compared with the widespread nominate, and underparts are whiter and unstreaked (or only faintly so). *P. n. cinereigula* (SW peninsula) is intermediate. **Voice** A rapid, metallic rattle. **HH** Unobtrusive drumming. Light forest and secondary growth.



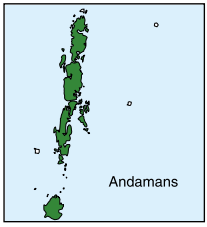
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus* 14 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Brown-capped by grey crown (blackish on sides and towards nape), blackish stripe behind eye, and by deeper fulvous coloration to underparts with heavier black streaking. Further, tends to show diffuse blackish malar stripe and whiter throat. Upperparts are blacker in background coloration, but difference is only very slight. Lacks white spotting on central tail feathers, except forms in NE (S of Brahmaputra) and Bangladesh. Male has crimson on nape. Male *D. c. semicoronatus* (East Himalayas) has more extensive red on sides of crown, meeting in narrow band across nape, than *D. c. mitchellii* (West Himalayas). **Voice** A high, quickly repeated *tit-tit-errrrrr*. **HH** Forest, and trees in cultivation.



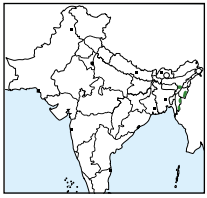
Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos macei* 18–19 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE and E India, and Bangladesh. **ID** A medium-sized woodpecker with white-barred black mantle and wings, and lightly streaked dirty buff underparts. Male has red on crown, which is black on female. Very similar to Stripe-breasted Woodpecker of NE (see that species). **Voice** An explosive *tchick* (less sharp than Stripe-breasted's) and rapid *pik-pipipipipipipi*. **HH** Forest edges, open forest.



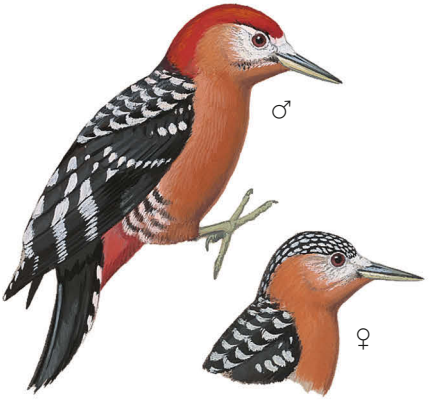
Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos* (*macei*) *analis* 15–16 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Smaller than Fulvous-breasted with prominent black spotting on breast, streaking on ear-coverts, bolder white barring on central tail feathers, and a pale bill. Male has duller red crown and nape, and female has brown tone to crown. **Voice** Calls include a distinctive staccato *chu-ik*. **HH** Forest and scrub.

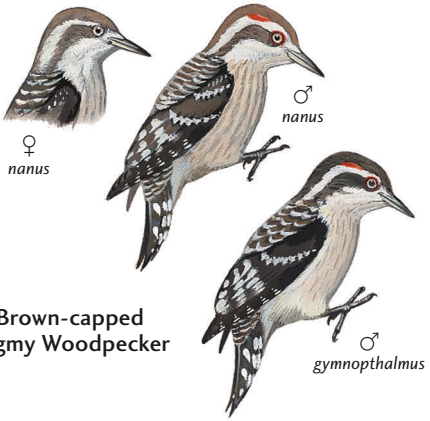


Stripe-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos atratus* 21–22 cm

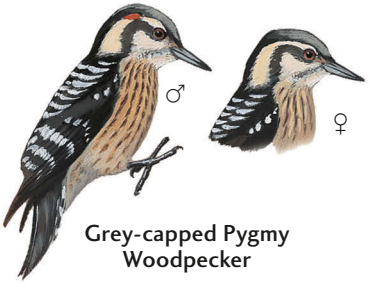
Resident. NE Indian hills and Bangladesh. **ID** From similar Fulvous-breasted by more boldly streaked underparts (especially on breast, and on some streaking extends onto lower throat). Further subtle differences include narrower white barring to black mantle (white bars narrower than black ones, and lacking on upper mantle), white (rather than buff) sides of head and neck, dull olive-yellow (rather than buff) colour to underparts, and slightly longer bill. Also red on head of male is brighter and extends onto nape. **Voice** An explosive *tchick* and a whinnying rattle. **HH** Open forest.



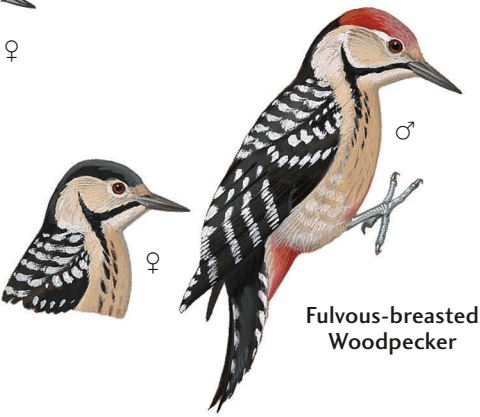
Rufous-bellied Woodpecker



Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker



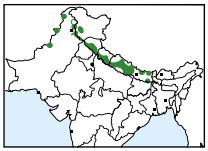
Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker



Fulvous-breasted Woodpecker

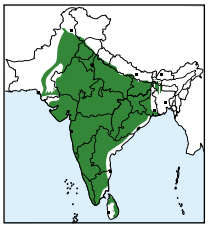
Spot-breasted Woodpecker

Stripe-breasted Woodpecker



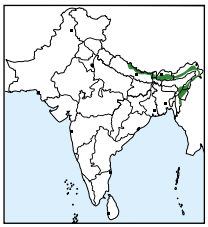
Brown-fronted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos auriceps* 19–20 cm

Resident. Hills of Baluchistan and Himalayas. **ID** From Yellow-crowned Woodpecker by white-barred mantle, brownish forehead and forecrown, and prominent black moustachial stripe and patch on sides of breast. Also has smaller bill, well-defined black streaking on underparts, pinkish undertail-coverts, and all-black central tail feathers. Male has red nape and yellow hind crown. Female has dull yellow hind crown and nape. **Voice** A series of rapidly repeated cries, *chitter-chitter-chitter-r-rh*. **HH** Subtropical and temperate forest.



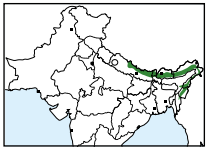
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker *Dendrocopos mahrattensis* 17–18 cm

Resident. Widespread east of Indus R. **ID** From Brown-fronted by yellowish forehead and forecrown, white-spotted mantle and wing-coverts, bold white barring on central tail feathers, whitish rump, and diffuse brown moustachial stripe and patch on sides of neck. Underparts are rather dirty grey, with fairly heavy brown streaking, and has small red patch on lower belly. Male has red hind crown and nape. Female has brownish hind crown and nape. *P. m. pallescens* (N and NW) has more heavily spotted and paler upperparts, and less noticeably streaked underparts. **Voice** Shrill *peek-peek* calls and a rapidly repeated *kik-kik-kik-r-r-r-h*. **HH** Open woodland, open country with scattered trees.



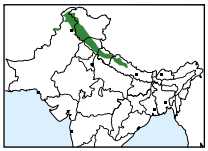
Crimson-breasted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos cathpharius* 18 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India. **ID** Smaller than Darjeeling Woodpecker with smaller bill; also male has red of nape extending to rear and sides of neck, while female has a diffuse, but fairly distinct, red patch at rear of ear-coverts. In addition, compared with Darjeeling, both sexes have a diffuse red patch on breast, lack heavy barring on flanks and thighs, and have indistinct red streaking on undertail-coverts (wholly pale red on Darjeeling). Male *D. c. pyrrhothorax* (NE south of Brahmaputra) has a larger red patch on upper breast, and wholly red undertail-coverts. **Voice** Loud, monotonous *tchick*, higher-pitched and less sharp than Darjeeling's, and a shrill *kee-kee*. **HH** Broadleaved forest.



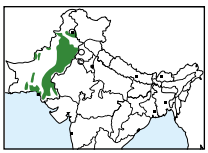
Darjeeling Woodpecker *Dendrocopos darjellensis* 25 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India. **ID** From Himalayan by black streaking on yellowish-buff underparts, yellowish-buff to pale orange sides of neck, absence of black rear border to ear-coverts, and male has black crown and red nape. Best told from Crimson-breasted by larger size and bill, and yellowish-buff patch on neck. Juvenile has red on crown. **Voice** Calls includes single *tsik*, a rattling *di-di-di-d-dddddt* and *tchew-tchew-tchew-tchew*. **HH** Forest.



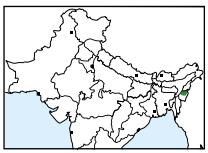
Himalayan Woodpecker *Dendrocopos himalayensis* 23–25 cm

Resident. W Himalayas. **ID** From Darjeeling by unstreaked underparts, black rear edge to ear-coverts, and red crown of male (although juvenile male Darjeeling has reddish crown). West Himalayan *D. h. albescens* is whitish or greyish-white on the underparts; central and eastern Himalayan nominate is buff or yellowish on underparts. **Voice** A single *kit*, a rapid series of cries *tri-tri-tri-tri* and a high-pitched *chisik-chisik*. **HH** Forest.



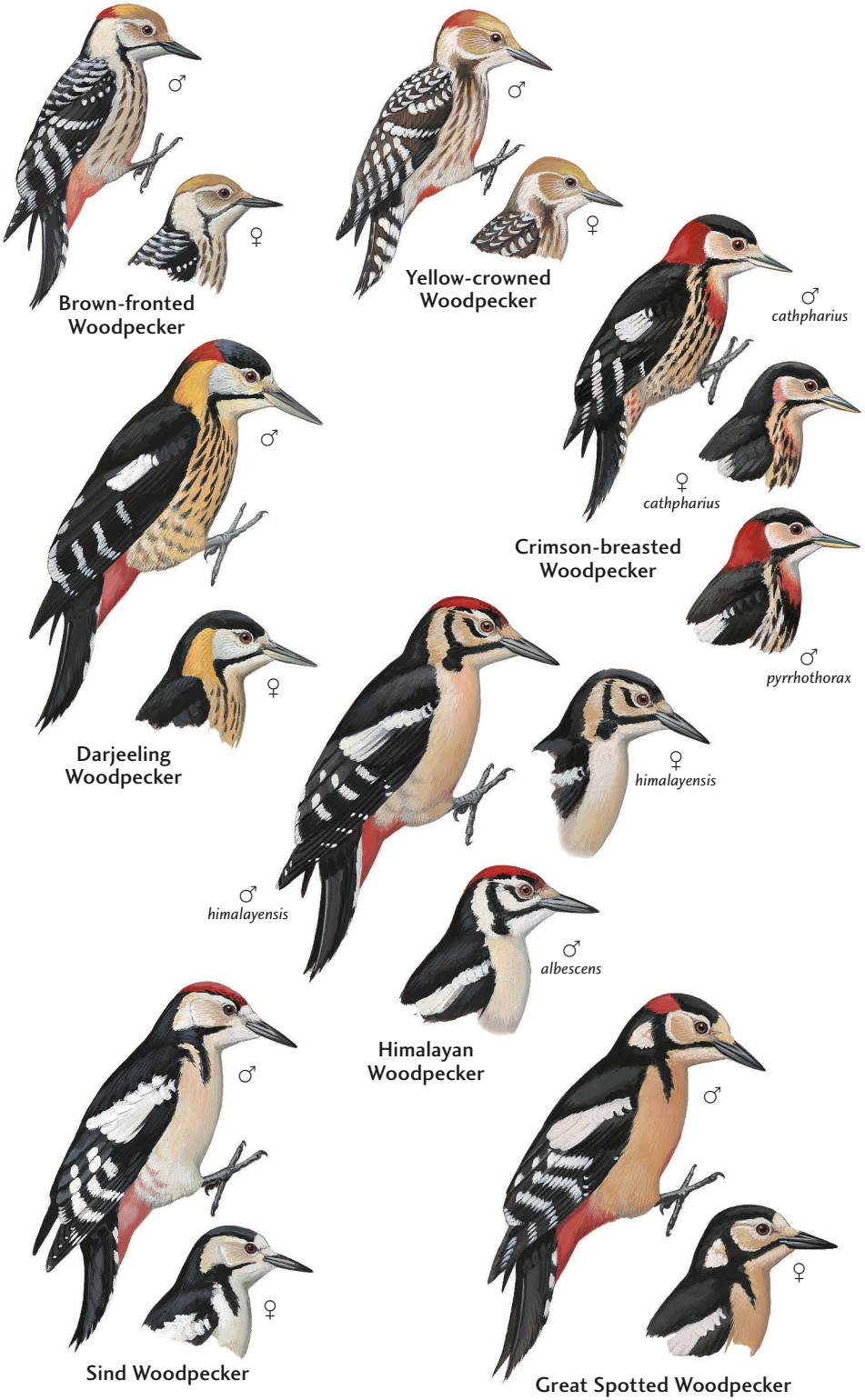
Sind Woodpecker *Dendrocopos assimilis* 20–22 cm

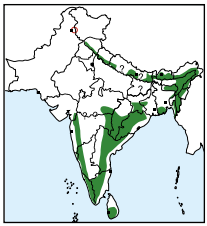
Resident. Widespread in Pakistan. **ID** Very closely resembles Himalayan, although has different range and habitat. Subtle differences include slightly smaller size, absence of black border to ear-coverts, large white patch on forehead, larger white 'shoulder' patch (with white extending onto scapulars), broader white barring on wings, whiter underparts, and paler pinkish-red vent (extending onto lower belly). **Voice** Weak, high-pitched *chir-rur-rirh-rirh* and *wicka toi-whit, to-whit, toi-whit*. **HH** Dry forest and plantations.



Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* 24 cm

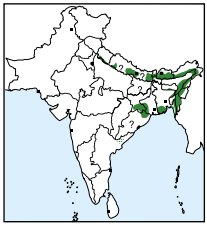
Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Most closely resembles Himalayan, but underparts are darker, dirty buffish-brown, has black bar extending down sides of breast (almost joining to form breast band on some), and crown of male is all black (red on Himalayan, although see below). Also undertail-coverts are a deeper red (extending onto lower belly), dark border to ear-coverts joins nape rather than crown, and has smaller whitish/buffish patch on sides of neck. Juvenile has red on crown, and therefore more closely resembles male Himalayan. **Voice** A single *kix* and a *krrarraarr*. **HH** Oak and pine forest.


♂
♀
Brown-fronted Woodpecker
Yellow-crowned Woodpecker
♂ cathpharius
♀ cathpharius
Crimson-breasted Woodpecker
♂ pyrrhothorax
Darjeeling Woodpecker
♂ himalayensis
♀ himalayensis
♂ albescens
Himalayan Woodpecker
Sind Woodpecker
Great Spotted Woodpecker



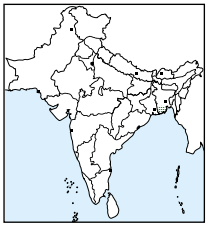
Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus* 27 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** From Greater Yellownape by smaller size and bill, red and white head markings, rufous panel in wing, white barring on primaries, and white barring on underparts. Male has red moustachial and line above eye. In peninsular India and Sri Lanka *P. c. chlorigaster* and *P. c. wellsi* are smaller and darker green on upperparts, with white spotting (rather than barring) on underparts, and lack prominent white stripes on sides of head (head is more uniform dark greyish-olive); males have red crown and less yellow on nape and females have red on rear crown. **Voice** A buzzard-like, drawn-out *pee-oow*. **HH** Forest, secondary growth, plantations.



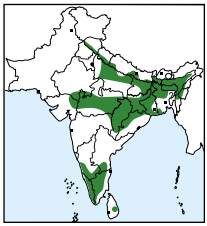
Greater Yellownape *Picus flavinucha* 33 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE and E India, and Bangladesh. From Lesser by larger size and bill, brown on crown, and lack of red and white markings on head. Further differences include dark olive sides of neck adjoining dark-spotted white foreneck, uniform underparts, black barring on primaries, and yellow (male) or rufous-brown (female) throat. **Voice** A plaintive, descending *pee-u… pee-u* and a single metallic *chenk*. **HH** Forest and forest edges.



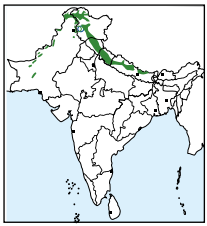
Streak-breasted Woodpecker *Picus viridanus* 30–33 cm

Resident. Bangladesh Sundarbans. **ID** From Streak-throated Woodpecker by unmarked or indistinctly marked olive foreneck and upper breast. Other features mentioned in the literature (plainer grey ear-coverts, red eye, more pronounced blackish moustachial, blacker tail) appear to be variable in both Streak-breasted and Streak-throated and may be unreliable in the field. **Voice** Calls include a squirrel-like *kyup*. **HH** Mangroves. **TN** Formerly thought to be Laced Woodpecker *P. vittatus*.



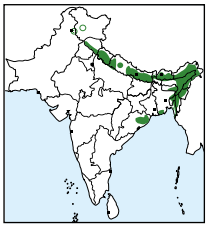
Streak-throated Woodpecker *Picus xanthopygaeus* 30 cm

Fairly widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** From similar Scaly-bellied Woodpecker by olive streaking on throat and upper breast. Also smaller in size, smaller bill and usually darker upper mandible, indistinct moustachial stripe (often obscured by pale streaking), and comparatively uniform tail. Male has red crown, which is black (streaked with grey) on female. Juvenile has grey bases to feathers of mantle and scapulars, creating mottled appearance to upperparts. **Voice** Rather silent. **HH** Forest, secondary growth and plantations.



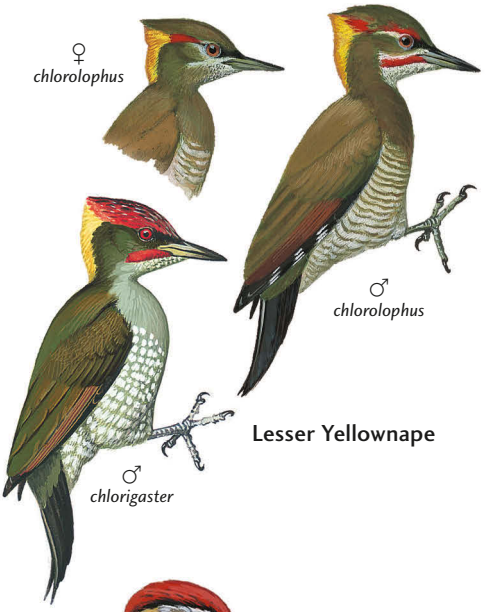
Scaly-bellied Woodpecker *Picus squamatus* 35 cm

Resident. Hills of Baluchistan and W and C Himalayas. **ID** From similar Streak-throated by larger size, larger yellowish bill, more prominent dark moustachial stripe, unstreaked throat and upper breast, more boldly scaled underparts, and prominent whitish barring on tail. Male has red crown, which is black (streaked with grey) on female. Juvenile has mottled upperparts, and dark spotting and scaling on throat and breast which could cause confusion with Streak-throated (although is larger and has white-barred tail). **Voice** Flight call is a repeated *kuik-kui-kuik*; advertising call is a quavering, rapidly repeated *klee-gu-kleeguh*. **HH** Forest, scrub, and open country with large trees.

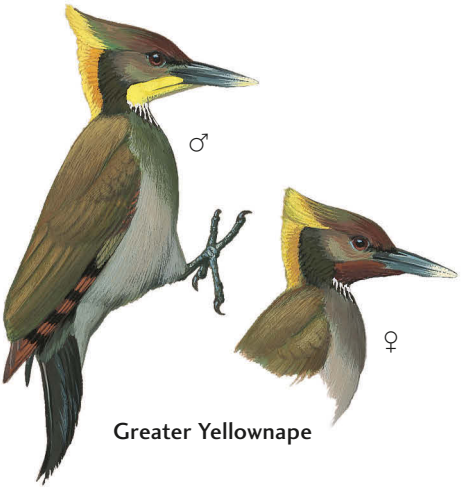


Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* 32 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE and E India, and Bangladesh. **ID** Has plain grey face, black nape and moustachial, dark bill, and uniform greyish-green underparts. Male has red forehead and forecrown (black in female). Juvenile is duller, with greyer upperparts, less pronounced moustachial, and has whitish barring on underparts. W Himalayan *P. c. sanguiniceps* is darker and greener on upperparts and underparts than E Himalayan *P. c. hessei*, which has bronze sheen to upperparts and yellower underparts. **Voice** A high-pitched *peeek, peeek, peeek, peeek*, fading at end; also chattering alarm cry. **HH** Forest.

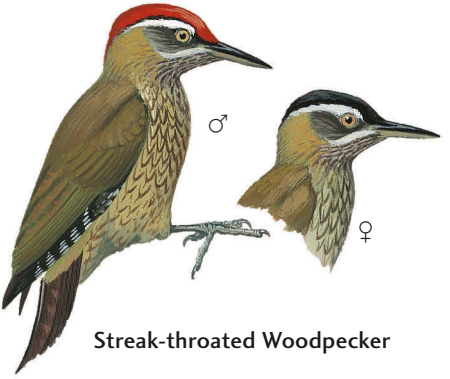


Lesser Yellownape

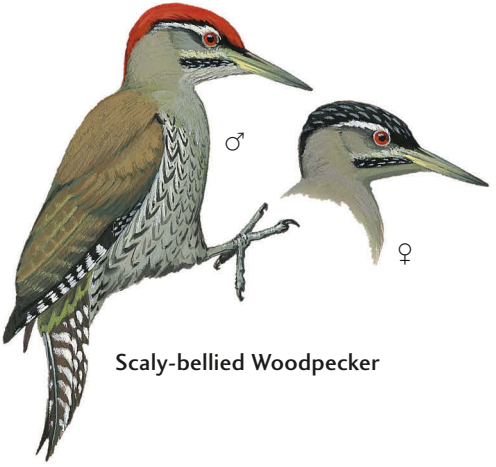


Greater Yellownape

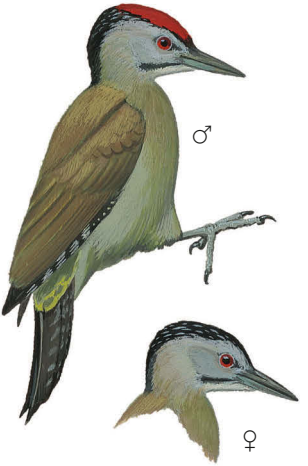
Streak-breasted Woodpecker



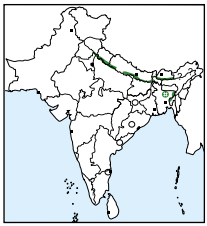
Streak-throated Woodpecker



Scaly-bellied Woodpecker

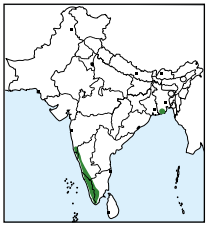


Grey-headed Woodpecker



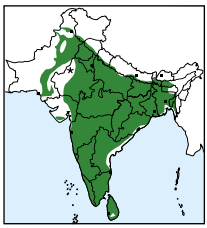
Himalayan Goldenback *Dinopium shorii* 30–32 cm

Resident. Himalayas, and locally in hills of peninsula and Bangladesh. **ID** Smaller size and bill than Greater Goldenback, with black hind neck, and brownish-buff centre of throat (and breast on some) with black spotting forming irregular border. Has indistinctly divided moustachial stripe (centre is brownish-buff, with touch of red on male). Further, has reddish or brown eyes, and three toes. Breast is irregularly streaked and scaled with black, and on some is almost unmarked. Female has white streaking to black crest (white spotting in female Greater). See Common Goldenback. **Voice** A rapid repeated *klak-klak-klak-klak-klak* which is slower and softer than Greater's. **HH** Mature forest. **AN** Himalayan Flameback.



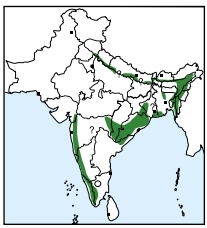
Common Goldenback *Dinopium javanense* 28–30 cm

Resident. Hills of SW and NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Smaller size and bill than Greater, lacking cleanly divided moustachial, and has black hind neck. Has reddish or brown eyes, and three toes. Smaller size and bill compared with Himalayan. Moustachial stripe lacks clear dividing line (usually solid black, although can appear divided on some and similar to Himalayan) Also Common has an irregular line of black spotting down centre of throat (brownish-buff line in Himalayan), and breast of Common is more heavily marked with black. **Voice** Rattle call faster and higher-pitched than Greater Flameback's. **HH** Forest. **AN** Common Flameback.



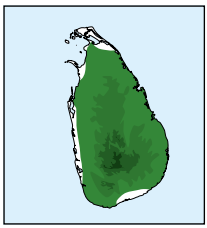
Lesser Goldenback *Dinopium benghalense* 26–29 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Best told by combination of black lower back and rump, different head pattern (has white-spotted black throat and black stripe through eye, but lacks moustachial stripe), barred primaries, and (variable) white or buff spotting on blackish lesser wing-coverts. Further, female has red hind crown and crest. *D. b. psarodes* (Sri Lanka) has crimson upperparts. **Voice** Single strident *klerk* and a whinnying *kyi-kyi-kyi*. **HH** Light forest, plantations, groves and trees in open country. **AN** Black-rumped Flameback.



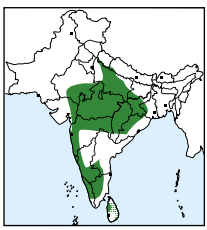
Greater Goldenback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* 33 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Himalayan and Common by larger size and longer S-shaped neck, longer bill, white or black-and-white spotted hind neck, pale eyes, and four (not three) toes. In addition, has clearly divided moustachial stripe (with obvious white oval centre), clean single black line down centre of throat, and white spotting on black breast. Female has white spotting on crown (white streaking in Himalayan and Common). **Voice** A sharp, metallic, monotone *di-di-di-di-di-di-di*. **HH** Forest and groves. **AN** Greater Flameback.



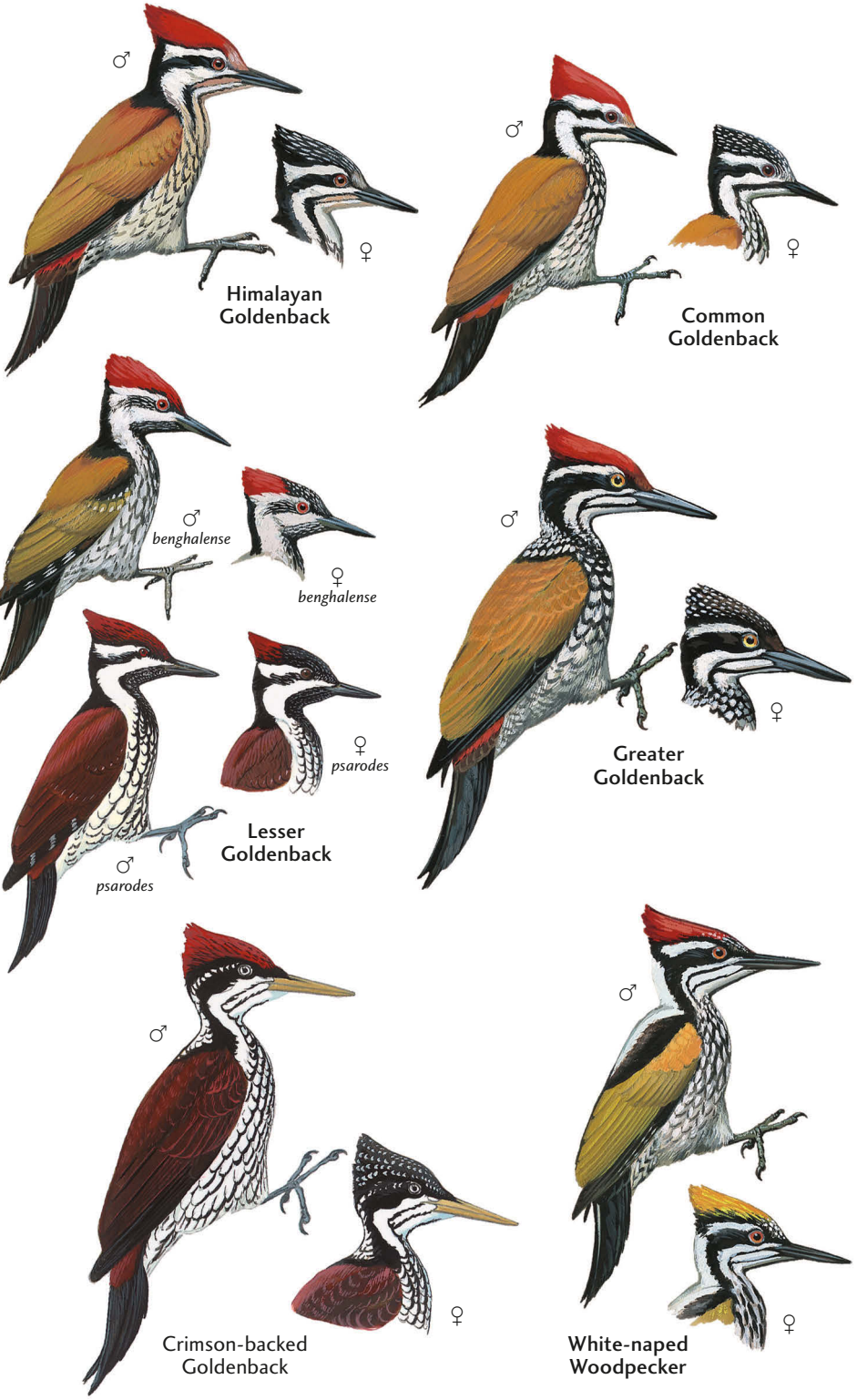
Crimson-backed Goldenback *Chrysocolaptes* (*lucidus*) *stricklandi* 33cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Strikingly different from Greater, with crimson upperparts, pale bill, and broader black stripe through eye (with indistinct white supercilium). Larger than Lesser, with large pale bill, whitish eye, white-spotted hind neck, and divided moustachial stripe. **Voice** Utters a sharp, metallic, monotone *kiriri… kirirriri* like a giant cicada. **HH** Forest and well-wooded areas.



White-naped Woodpecker *Chrysocolaptes festivus* 29 cm

Resident. Widespread in India, also W Nepal and Sri Lanka. **ID** Large, with large bill and divided moustachial stripe. Best told by white hind neck and mantle contrasting with black scapulars and back (which form black V). Rump is also black. Female has yellow hind crown and crest. **Voice** Tinnier, higher-pitched rattle than goldenbacks; all phrases drop noticeably in pitch, reminiscent of Crested Kingfisher. **HH** Light forest, scrub and scattered trees.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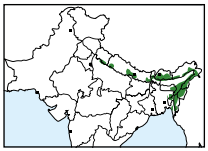
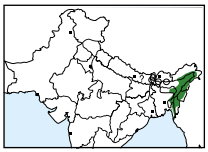
♀
Himalayan Goldenback
Common Goldenback
♂ benghalese
♀ benghalese
♀ psarodes
♂ psarodes
Lesser Goldenback
Greater Goldenback
Crimson-backed Goldenback
White-naped Woodpecker



Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* 28 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** 'Dopey-looking' with big head, large eye, stout lime-green bill, long and thin tail, and upright stance. Mainly green with black cap, blue crown, and yellow 'ear' spot, throat and collar. Shows white patch at base of primaries in flight. Juvenile has green cap and lacks blue crown spot. **Voice** A loud, piercing *pieu-wieuw-wieuw-wieuw*. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen and semi-evergreen forest.

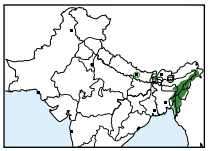


Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus* 18 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Big head, crested appearance, large eye, stout bluish bill, upright stance, and sluggish movements give rise to distinctive jizz. Has blackish supercilium, yellow eye-ring, pale chestnut tertials and rump, complex white and blue patterning to black wings, and black tail. Shows white patch at base of primaries in flight. Female has a broken white necklace. Juvenile similar to adult but with dark bill. **Voice** A *ki-uu*, like a rusty hinge. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen and semi-evergreen forest.

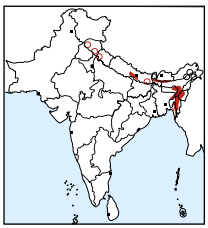
Blue Pitta *Pitta cyanea* 23 cm

Resident. NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Large pitta with pinkish-red on hind crown, black stripe through eye and black moustachial stripe, and bold black spotting and barring on underparts. In flight, shows small white patch in wing. Male has blue upperparts and pale blue wash to underparts. Female has dark olive upperparts with variable blue tinge, and breast is washed with buff; occasionally lacks pinkish-red on hind crown. Juvenile is mainly dark brown, streaked and spotted with rufous-buff, with prominent buff supercilium and dark eye-stripe. **Voice** Song is a liquid *pleoow-whit*, the first part falling, the second part sharp and short. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen forest, moist ravines.



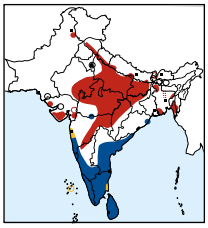
Blue-naped Pitta *Pitta nipalensis* 25 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Large pitta with fulvous sides of head and underparts, and uniform green upperparts. Male has glistening blue hind crown and nape. Female has rufous-brown crown and smaller, greenish-blue patch on nape. Juvenile is mainly brown, streaked and spotted with buff, with brownish-white supercilium; wings and tail are brownish-green. **Voice** Has powerful double whistle. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen forest, moist ravines.



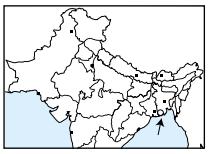
Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida* 19 cm

Summer visitor or resident? Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Has largely black head with chestnut crown and nape, glistening blue forewing and uppertail-coverts, green breast and flanks, and scarlet belly and vent with black abdomen patch. Shows larger white wing patch in flight than Indian. Juvenile duller with black scaling on crown, white patch on median coverts, brownish chin and dirty white throat, and brownish underparts with dull pink belly and vent. **Voice** Song is an explosive double whistle, *wieuw-wieuw*. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forest.



Indian Pitta *Pitta brachyura* 19 cm

Resident. Breeds from Himalayan foothills south to Maharashtra and Bangladesh; winters in S India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Has bold black stripe through eye contrasting with white throat and supercilium, and buff lateral crown-stripes separated by black centre to crown. Underparts are buff, with reddish-pink lower belly and vent. Upperparts are green, with shining blue uppertail-coverts and forewing. In flight, shows small white patch on wing. Juvenile is much duller with lateral crown-stripes scaled with black. **Voice** A sharp two-noted whistle, second note descending, *pree-treer*. **HH** Mainly broadleaved forest with dense undergrowth.



Mangrove Pitta *Pitta megarhyncha* 20 cm

Resident. Sunderbans, Bangladesh. **ID** Similar to Indian Pitta, but larger and with longer bill. Crown is uniform rufous-brown, with buffish sides which may show as indistinct supercilium. Lacks white patch below eye of Indian. Upperparts are darker green, and has deeper blue wing-coverts and rump/uppertail-coverts, and larger white wing patch than Indian. Juvenile is duller than adult with black scaling on crown. **Voice** A loud, slurred *tae-laew*. **HH** Mangroves.

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Long-tailed Broadbill
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Silver-breasted Broadbill
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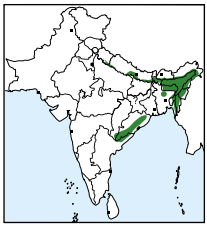
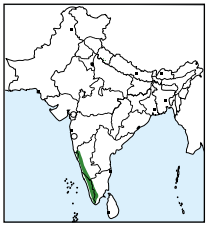


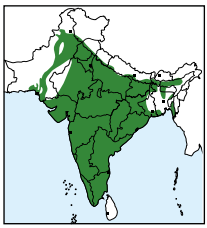
Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis virgatus* 23 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE, E and SW India, and Bangladesh. **ID** From Common Woodshrike by larger size and bill, lack of pale supercilium, striking white lower back and rump, and uniform grey-brown tail. Female has poorly defined brown mask compared with male, with paler bill, darker eye, and brown crown and nape which is concolorous with mantle. Juvenile is scaled with buff and brown on upperparts, and tertials and tail feathers are diffusely barred and have buff fringes and dark subterminal crescents. **Voice** A musical *kew-kew-kew-kew.* **HH** Broadleaved forest and well-wooded areas. **TN** Formerly *T. gularis.*



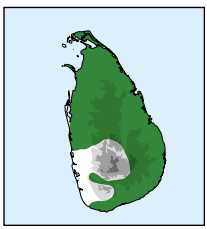
Malabar Woodshrike *Tephrodornis* (*virgatus*) *sylvicola* 23 cm

Resident. SE Gujarat and S Western Ghats. **ID** Male from male Large by more uniform grey crown, nape and mantle, greyer wings and tail, and darker pinkish grey throat and breast with well-defined whitish submoustachial stripe. Female is similar to male but a shade browner on upperparts with less clear-cut mask, and paler base to bill. **Voice** A quick repeated *wittoo-wittoo-wittoo-wittoo*; also harsh shrike-like calls. **HH** Broadleaved forest and well-wooded areas.



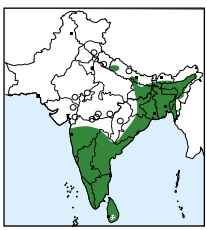
Common Woodshrike *Tephrodornis pondicerianus* 18 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** From Large and Malabar by smaller size, white supercilium above dark mask, and dark brown tail with white sides. Iris is brown. Sexes similar. Juvenile has buffish-white supercilium, whitish spotting on crown and mantle, pale and dark fringes to tertials and tail feathers, and indistinct brown streaking on breast. **Voice** A plaintive whistling *weet-weet,* followed by an interrogative *whi-whi-whi-wheee*. **HH** Open broadleaved forest, secondary growth and well-wooded areas.



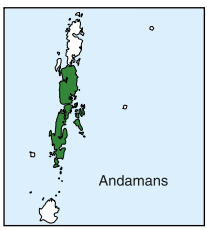
Sri Lanka Woodshrike *Tephrodornis* (*pondicerianus*) *affinis* 18 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Only woodshrike in Sri Lanka. Male has narrow whitish supercilium contrasting with dark mask, pale submoustachial stripe, white rump and white sides to dark tail. Female is browner with browner bill and iris. **Voice** A descending *twee-twee-twee-twee*. **HH** Well-wooded areas.



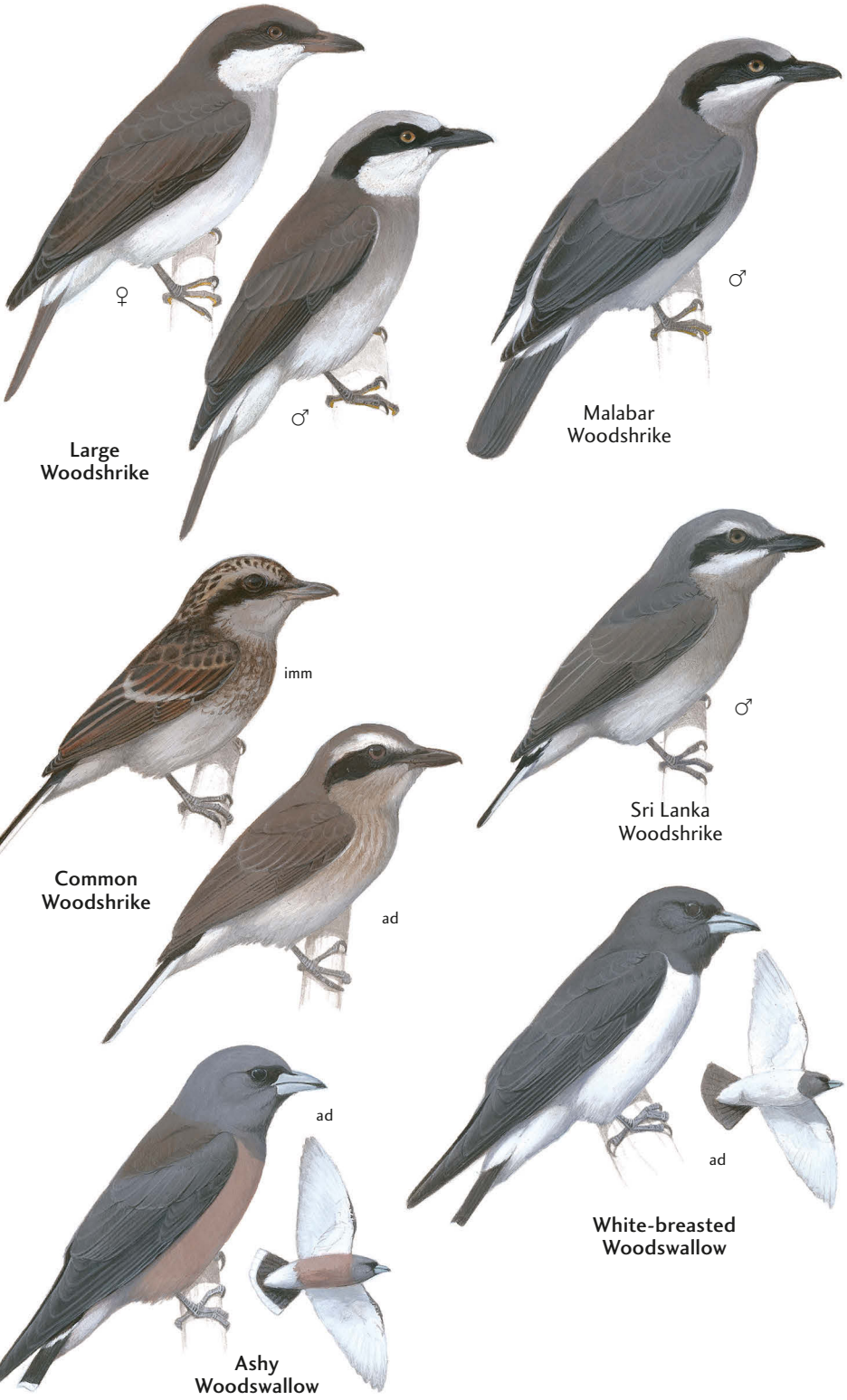
Ashy Woodswallow *Artamus fuscus* 19 cm

Resident. Mainly E, SE and S subcontinent. **ID** Adult has stout blue-grey bill, uniform slate-grey head, greyish-maroon mantle, and pinkish-grey underparts. In flight, shows white-tipped tail and greyish-white band across uppertail-coverts. Juvenile has browner upperparts with buff fringes, paler grey throat (with indistinct brownish barring). **Voice** A harsh *chek-chek-chek.* Song is a drawn-out pleasant twittering. **HH** Open wooded country.



White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorynchus* 19 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** The only woodswallow occurring in the Andaman Is. Similar in appearance to Ashy but has broader white band across lower rump and uppertail-coverts, and white lower breast, belly and vent (contrasting with dark grey head). Lacks white terminal band to tail. Juvenile has uniform brown upperparts with buff fringes, and greyish-white throat. **Voice** As Ashy. **HH** Forest clearings.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Large Woodshrike
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Malabar Woodshrike
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Common Woodshrike
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Sri Lanka Woodshrike
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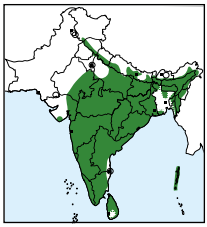
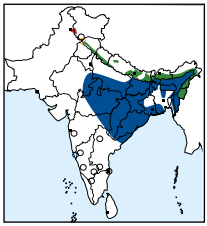
White-breasted Woodswallow
Ashy Woodswallow



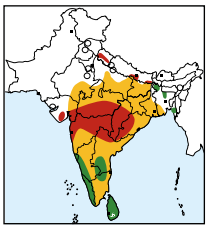
Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei* 30 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in northwest. **ID** Male nominate (peninsula) and *C. m. layardi* (Sri Lanka) have grey throat and breast and barred underparts; females have barred underparts. *C. m. nipalensis* (Himalayan foothills and NE) has broader whitish fringes to wing feathers; male has uniform grey underparts; female has barring on belly and flanks (and is similar to nominate male). *C. m. andamanensis* (Andamans) is similar to *nipalensis* but paler with bigger bill. In all subspecies male has blacker mask than female. Juvenile is heavily scaled with brown and white. **Voice** A loud wheezy *jee-eet*. **HH** Open woodland, and trees in cultivation.



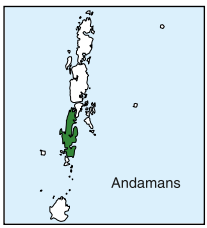
Black-winged Cuckooshrike *Coracina melaschistos* 24 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas and NE Indian hills; winters mainly in Himalayan foothills, E and NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male has dark slate-grey head and body, black wings, fine white tips to undertail-coverts, and bold white tips to long tail. Female is similar, but paler grey, with wings not so contrastingly black, and has faint barring on belly and vent. Juvenile has head and body boldly scaled with white, with white tips to wing-coverts and tertials. **Voice** A descending monotonous *pity-to-be*. **HH** Open forest and groves.



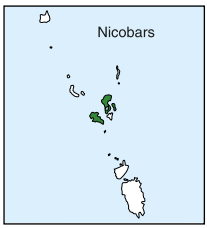
Black-headed Cuckooshrike *Coracina melanoptera* 18 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Male has dark slate-grey head, neck and upper breast, contrasting with pale-grey mantle and rest of underparts; wings are darker grey than mantle, and have broad, pale fringes to coverts and tertials. Female from female Black-winged by prominent supercilium, stronger dark grey and white barring on underparts, pale grey back and rump contrasting noticeably with shorter and squarer blackish tail, and broader white fringes to coverts and tertials. Juvenile upperparts barred with white. **Voice** Clear, mellow whistling notes, followed by a quick repeated *pit-pit-pit*. **HH** Open broadleaved forest and secondary growth.



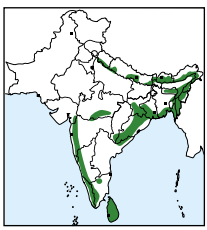
Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata* 26 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Smaller and darker grey than Large with crimson iris. Male has dark grey throat and breast, and broad blackish barring on rest of underparts. Female is entirely barred below including vent. Juvenile is very scaly above; has pale rufous tips and fringes to greater coverts and tertials, barred underparts, and rufous cast to throat and breast. Immature similar to female but with rufous throat and breast. **Voice** Clear whinnying whistles *kliu-kliu-kliu-kliu;* also a grating *gree-ew gree-ew*. **HH** Forest.



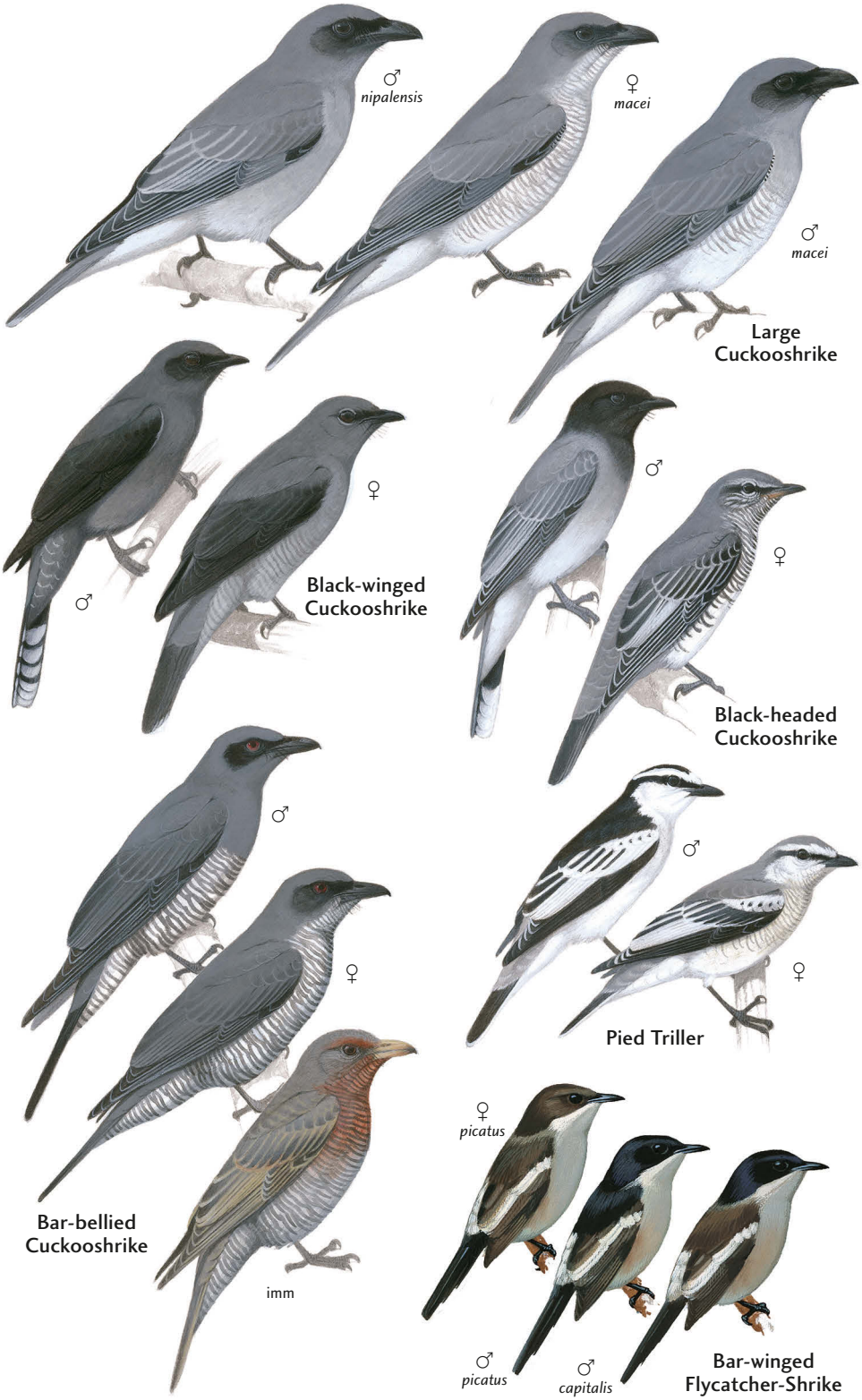
Pied Triller *Lalage nigra* 18 cm

Resident. Nicobars. **ID** Male has white supercilium and black eye-stripe, black upperparts, broad white fringes to wing feathers, grey rump, white-tipped black tail, and white underparts with grey wash to breast. Female has slate-grey upperparts, slight buffish wash to faintly barred underparts, and narrower white fringes to wing-coverts. Juvenile has browner upperparts with faint buff barring. **Voice** A disyllabic whistle, the second note lower, and a descending series of nasal *chack* notes. **HH** Forest edges and secondary growth.



Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus picatus* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Dark cap contrasts with white sides of throat; has white patch and white rump. Female has brown cap. Males of northern populations are brown-backed and in peninsular India and Sri Lanka are black-backed. **Voice** A continuous *tsit-it-it-it-it-it* or *whiriri-whiriri-whiriri*; a high-pitched trilling *sisisisisisi* and an insistent tit-like *chip*. **HH** Broadleaved forest and forest edges.


♂ nipalensis
♀ macei
♂ macei
Large Cuckooshrike
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Black-winged Cuckooshrike
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Black-headed Cuckooshrike
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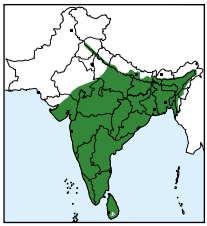
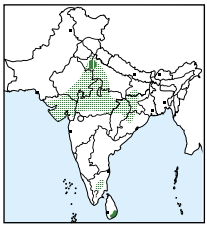
Pied Triller
♀ picatus
♂ picatus
♂ capitalis
Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike



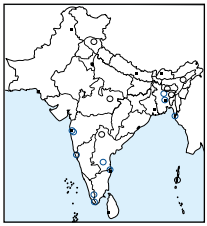
Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* 14 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in the northwest. **ID** From Marshall's Iora in all plumages by uniform black tail (male) or green tail (female). Very variable. Crown and mantle of breeding males vary from uniformly black (*multicolor* of S India and Sri Lanka), to black mixed with much yellow on mantle (e.g. *humei* of central peninsula), to mainly yellowish-green (e.g. *tiphia* of Himalayas and northeast). Females very similar to non-breeding males although tail is green. **Voice** Song is a long, drawn-out two-toned whistle; also a piping *tu-tu-tu-tu*. **HH** Open forest and well-wooded areas.



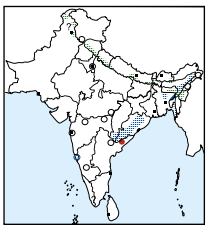
Marshall's Iora *Aegithina nigrolutea* 14 cm

Resident. N and C peninsular India and Sri Lanka. **ID** From Common in all plumages by extensive white in black tail, with central feathers varying from black with a white tip to largely white to greyish-white with irregular black bases. Male breeding has black crown and nape, yellow hind collar (not usually shown by any subspecies of Common Iora), and black mantle with variable yellowish-green mottling. Male non-breeding has yellowish-green upperparts, and is similar to female. **Voice** An ascending nasal wheeze, often followed by a scolding *dzwee-chrrrt*. **HH** Scrub and groves.



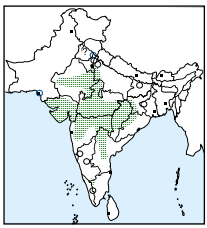
Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* 20 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly C and S India. **ID** Grey and white, lacking any yellow or red in plumage. In flight, shows whitish wing-bar, which is especially prominent on underwing. Male has black cap with white forehead. Female has grey 'cap', with black lores and narrow white forehead and supercilium. Immature has little or no white on head, and has brownish-grey upperparts, white tips to tertials and greater coverts, and faint brownish scaling on neck sides and breast. **Voice** Flight call is more rasping than that of other minivets, an unmelodious *tchue-de… tchue-dee-dee… tchue-dee-dee*. **HH** Light forest.



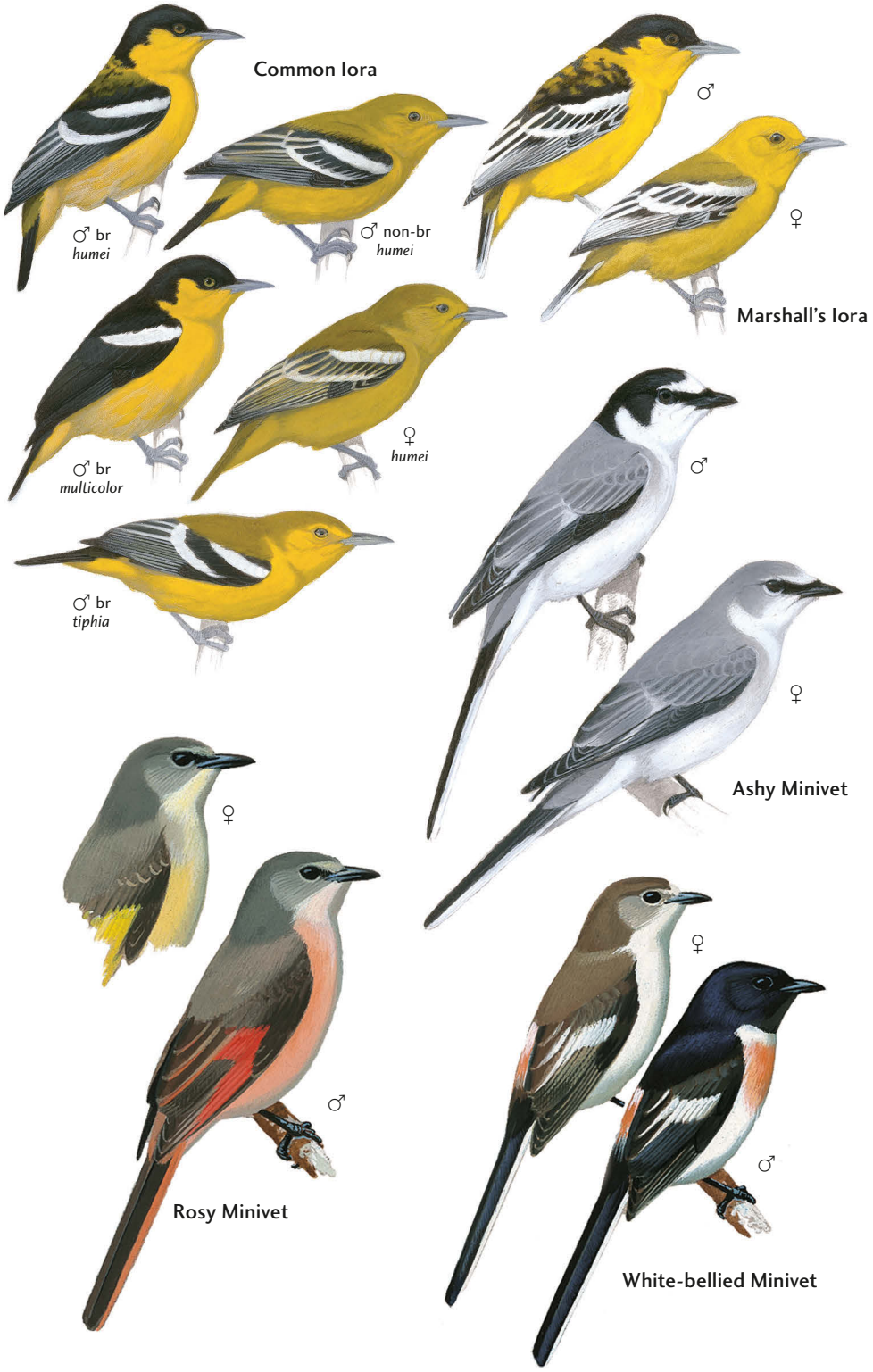
Rosy Minivet *Pericrocotus roseus* 20 cm

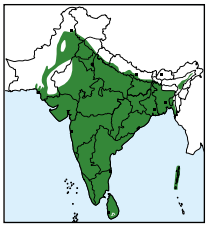
Resident. Breeds in Himalayas and NE India; winters mainly in NE and E India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male has grey-brown upperparts, white throat, pinkish-red edges to tertials, and pinkish underparts and rump. Female from other female minivets by combination of grey to grey-brown upperparts, with indistinct greyish-white forehead and supercilium, dull and indistinct olive-yellow rump, whitish throat, and pale yellow underparts. Juvenile has upperparts scaled with yellow. **Voice** A whirring trill. **HH** Forest.



White-bellied Minivet *Pericrocotus erythropygius* 15 cm

Resident. Mainly N and C India. **ID** Small minivet; both sexes with white wing patch, orange and white on rump, and white sides to tail. Male has black upperparts and white underparts with pale orange or pink breast patch. Female has grey-brown upperparts and white underparts. **Voice** A *tsip-i-tsip*. **HH** Dry open scrub and forest.


Common Iora
♂ br
humei
♂ non-br
humei
♂
♀
Marshall's Iora
♂ br
multicolor
♀
humei
♂ br
tiphia
♂
♀
Ashy Minivet
♀
♂
Rosy Minivet
♀
♂
White-bellied Minivet

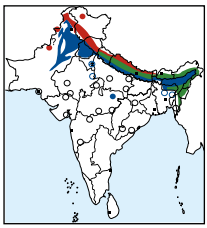


Small Minivet *Pericrocotus cinnamomeus* 16 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Small size. Considerable subspecies variation in subcontinent. Palest is *pallidus* of NW; intermediate is nominate (much of peninsular); brightest is *malabaricus* of SW peninsula. Wing panel varies from bright orange to buffish. Male has dark grey to pale grey upperparts, black to dark grey throat, and underparts vary from deep orange to mainly white with narrow orange breast band. Female has pale sandy-grey to slate-grey upperparts, and underparts vary from mainly orange-yellow to mainly white. In *pallidus* flame-orange of uppertail-coverts is most striking coloration. Juvenile has upperparts scaled with buff. **Voice** A continuous high-pitched *swee-swee* etc. **HH** Open wooded areas.

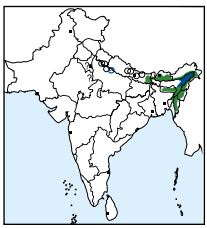
Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris* 18 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Male has grey chin and pale orange throat, grey ear-coverts, slate-grey upperparts, orange-red underparts and rump, and orange-red wing patch and outer tail feathers. Female has grey forehead and supercilium, grey ear-coverts, and whitish chin and sides to yellow throat. Juvenile has pale yellow fringes to feathers of upperparts. **Voice** A distinctive rasping *tsee-sip*. **HH** Moist broadleaved forest.



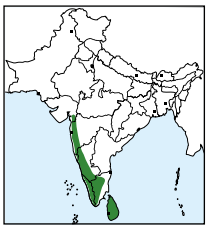
Long-tailed Minivet *Pericrocotus ethologus* 20 cm

Resident. Breeds in N Baluchistan, Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh; winters south to C India. **ID** From very similar Short-billed by different shape of red wing patch (with red extending as narrow panel along tertials and secondaries). Also underparts are a more scarlet-red, and black throat is less extensive and duller. Female best told by narrow area of yellow on forehead and supercilium. Ear-coverts are more uniformly grey than on female Short-billed Minivet, and has distinctly paler yellow throat (than breast); where ranges overlap brighter rump and uppertail-coverts than that species. **Voice** A distinctive, sweet double whistle *pi-ru,* the second note lower than the first. **HH** Forest; also well-wooded areas in winter.



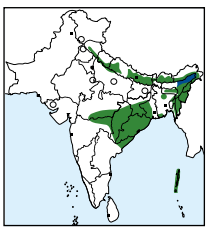
Short-billed Minivet *Pericrocotus brevirostris* 19 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Male lacks extension of red wing patch down the secondaries. Female has a yellow forehead and yellow cast to ear-coverts, and deep yellow throat that is concolorous with the rest of the underparts. See the account for Long-tailed Minivet for further differences from that species. **Voice** Distinctive loud, high-pitched, monotone whistle **HH** Broadleaved forest and forest edges.



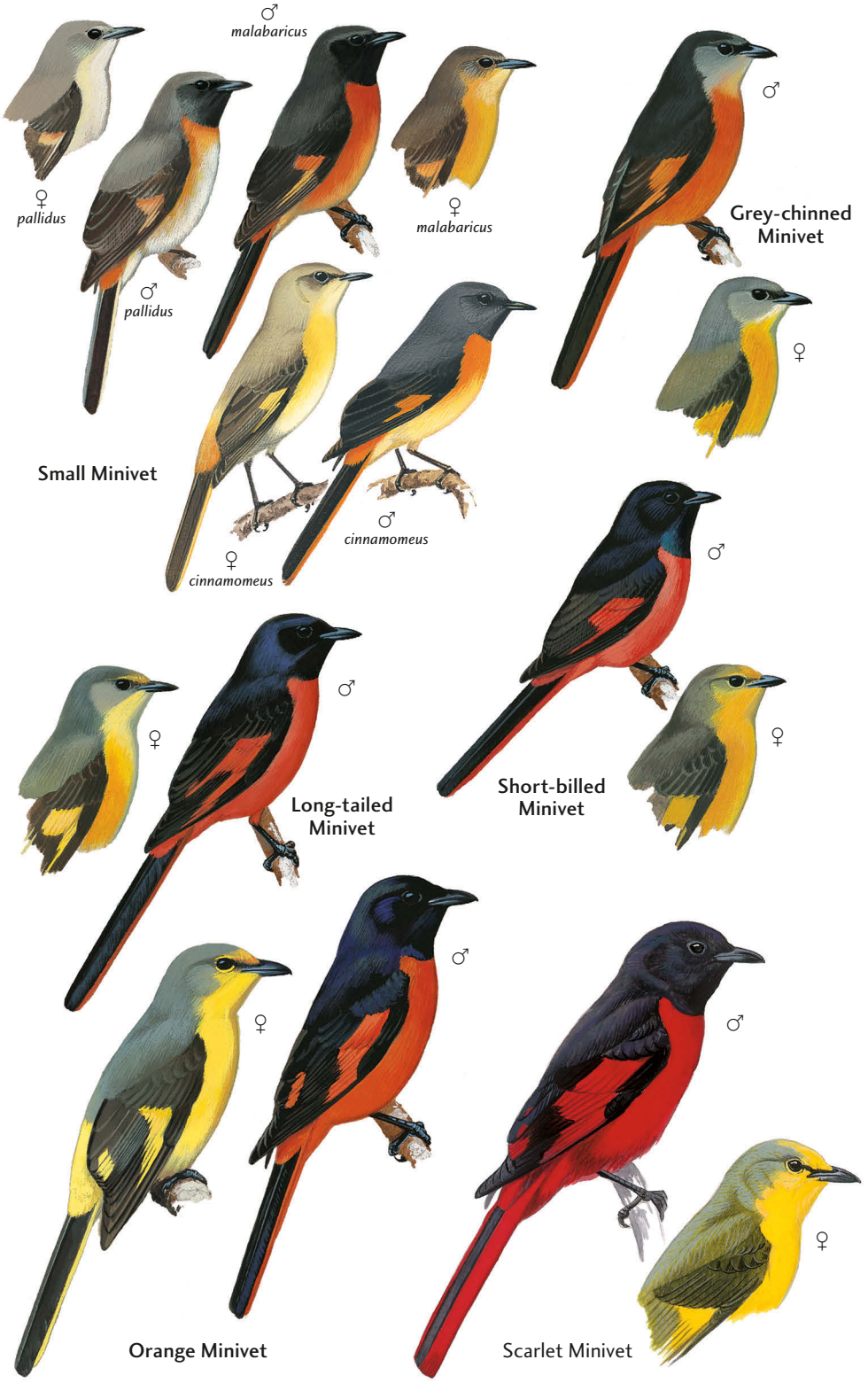
Orange Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus* 20–22 cm

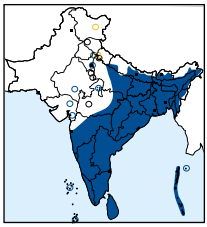
Resident. SE Gujarat and N Maharashtra through Western Ghats and SW Eastern Ghats; Sri Lanka. **ID** Large minivet with isolated orange (male) or yellow (female) patch on tertials. Male has deep orange underparts. Female has colder grey-brown upperparts than Scarlet, with less yellow on forehead, and darker grey ear-coverts. **Voice** A piercing whistled *sweep-sweep*. **HH** Forest and wooded areas. **TN** Considered here to be conspecific with the following species as Scarlet Minivet *P. flammeus*.



Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus* (*flammeus*) *speciosus* 22–23 cm

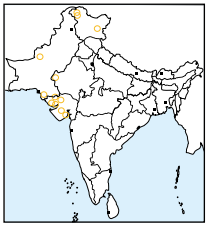
Resident. Himalayas, hills of C and E India, Eastern Ghats of N Andhra, Andamans and Bangladesh. **ID** Larger and longer-tailed than Orange Minivet. Male has scarlet red underparts. Female head pattern closest to Short-billed with extensive area of yellow on forehead and ear-coverts; best separated by larger size and yellow patch on tertials. **Voice** A piercing, loud *twee-twee-tweetywee-tweetyweetywee*. **HH** Forest and wooded areas.


♂ malabaricus
♀ pallidus
♂ pallidus
♀ malabaricus
Small Minivet
♂ cinnamomeus
♀ cinnamomeus
♂
Grey-chinned Minivet
♀
♂
♀
Long-tailed Minivet
♂
Short-billed Minivet
♀
♂
♀
Orange Minivet
♂
Scarlet Minivet
♀



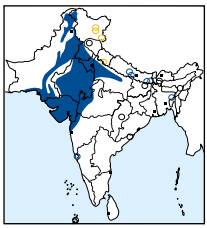
Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* 18–19 cm

Widespread winter visitor; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Compared with Red-tailed Shrike typically has darker and more uniform rufous-brown upperparts, and warmer rufous flanks. Also thicker bill, more graduated tail and lacks white patch at base of primaries (apparent in male and some female Red-tailed). Female has paler lores and faint dark scaling on breast and flanks. Juvenile has dark scaling to upperparts and underparts (mantle uniform by first-winter). *L. c. lucionensis* (winter visitor to Sri Lanka and Andamans/Nicobars), has grey cast to crown and nape, and rufous rump and tail. **Voice** Song is a rich varied chattering; grating call, typical of shrikes. **HH** Territorial on winter grounds. Forest edges and scrub.



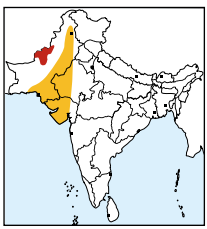
Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* 17 cm

Southward passage migrant. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Male has rufous mantle, pink underparts, and white sides to tail. Absence of black forehead and white in wing, help separate from Bay-backed Shrike. Female from female Red-tailed and Brown by grey cast to head and especially nape, contrasting slightly with rufous-brown mantle, and dark brown tail with white outer edge. Juvenile and first-winter have scaled upperparts; tail is more rufous-brown. Finer bill, squarer tail, grey cast to nape/rump and dark subterminal borders to tertials help separate juvenile from juvenile Brown. **Voice** Grating call. **HH** Conspicuous when feeding; more secretive at other times. Bushes and cultivation in dry country.



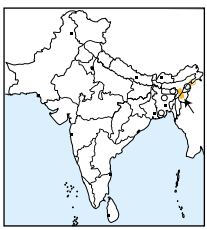
Isabelline Shrike *Lanius isabellinus* 17 cm

Winter visitor mainly to NW subcontinent. **ID** Has a pale sandy-brown mantle, contrasting with rufous rump and tail. Supercilium is buffish and mask is incomplete in front of eye. Female has paler ear-coverts than male, and usually has faint dark scaling on breast and flanks. Juvenile has dark scaling to upperparts and underparts (mantle uniform by first-winter). **Voice** Grating call. **HH** Like other shrikes, searches for prey from a vantage point, such as the top of a bush or small tree, post or telegraph wire. Open dry scrub. **AN** Rufous-tailed Shrike.



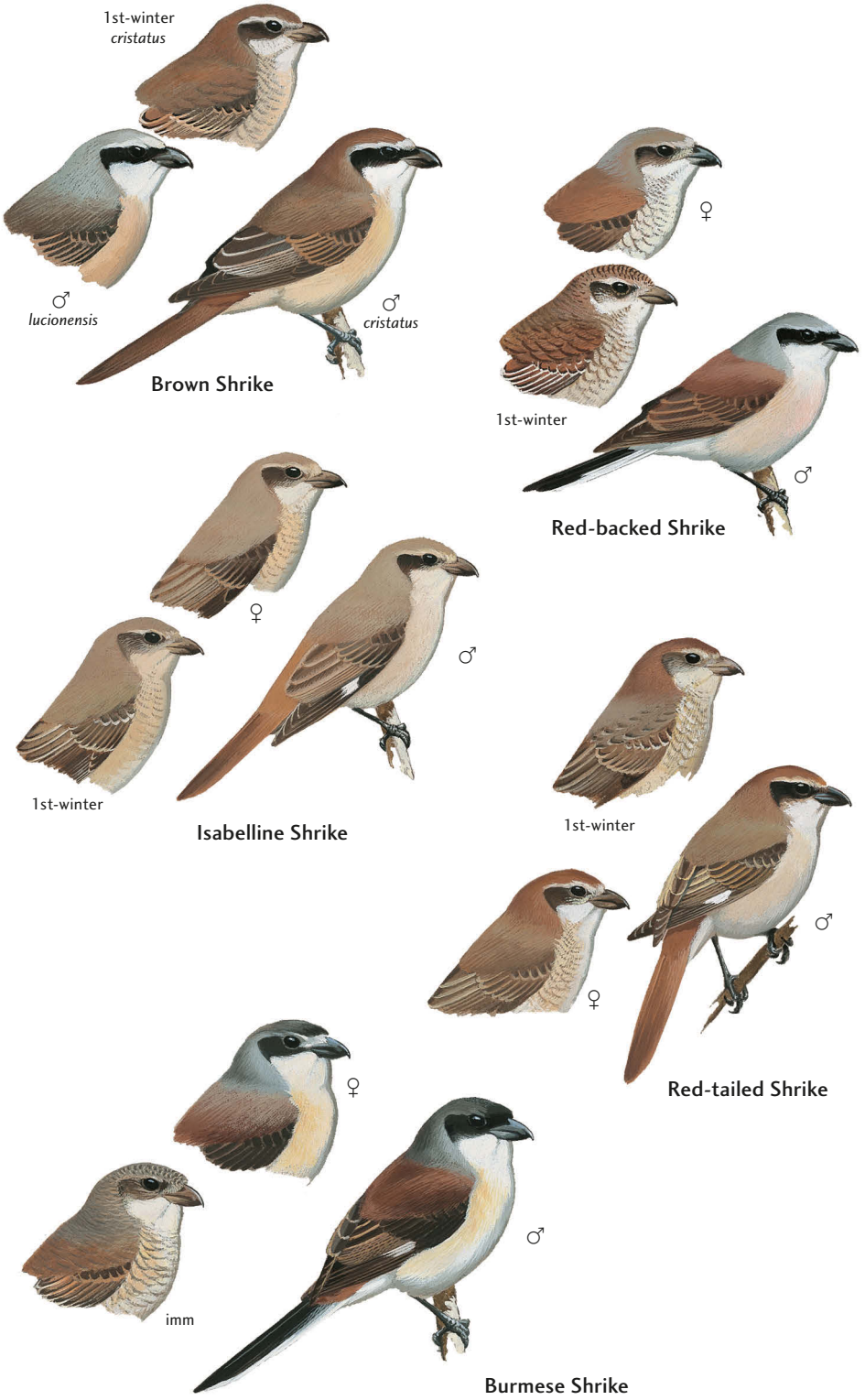
Red-tailed Shrike *Lanius phoenicuroides* 16.5 cm

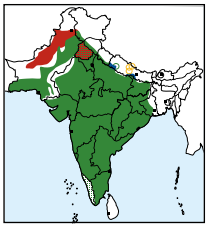
Breeds in Baluchistan, small numbers migrate through NW subcontinent. **ID** Compared with Isabelline, male has rufous cast to crown and nape, contrasting with darker grey-brown mantle, whiter supercilium, whiter underparts, and deeper rufous-brown tail. These features are often apparent in female and first-winter, although identification is less reliable. Male has complete black mask. **Voice** Grating call. **HH** A typical shrike, with habits very like those of Isabelline. Open dry scrub. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Isabelline Shrike as Rufous-tailed Shrike *L. isabellinus*. **AN** Turkestan Shrike.



Burmese Shrike *Lanius collurioides* 20 cm

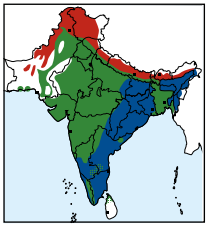
Passage migrant. Mainly NE India. **ID** Male has dark grey crown and nape, dark chestnut mantle, white tail sides, and chestnut rump. Female has whitish forehead, and paler chestnut mantle than male. Juvenile has two-toned upperparts, with buff barring on greyish or brown crown and nape, and rest of upperparts rufous with brown barring. **Voice** Alarm call is a loud, rapid, harsh chattering. **HH** Habits very little known. A confiding shrike, easy to approach and detect. Secondary growth and bushes in cultivation.


1st-winter
cristatus
♂
lucionensis
♂
cristatus
Brown Shrike
♀
1st-winter
♂
Red-backed Shrike
♀
♂
1st-winter
Isabelline Shrike
1st-winter
♀
♂
Red-tailed Shrike
♀
imm
♂
Burmese Shrike



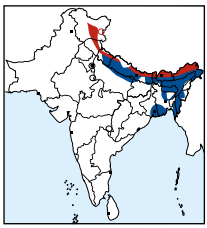
Bay-backed Shrike *Lanius vittatus* 17 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in the northeast and Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult has black forehead, pale grey crown and nape, deep maroon mantle, whitish rump, and white patch at base of primaries. Juvenile told from juvenile Long-tailed Shrike by smaller size and shorter tail, more uniform greyish/buffish base colour to upperparts, pale rump, and more intricately patterned wing-coverts and tertials (with buff fringes and dark subterminal crescents and central marks), and primary coverts are prominently tipped with buff. First-year like washed-out version of adult; lacks black forehead. **Voice** Song is a pleasant, rambling warble with much mimicry; call is a harsh churring. **HH** Open dry scrub, and bushes in cultivation.



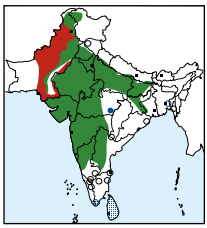
Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* 25 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Adult has grey mantle, rufous scapulars and upper back (except *caniceps* of peninsular India and Sri Lanka), narrow black forehead, rufous sides to black tail, and small white patch on primaries. Juvenile has (dark-barred) rufous-brown upperparts; dark greater coverts and tertials fringed rufous. Himalayan *tricolor* has black hood. **Voice** Song is a pleasant, subdued rambling warble with much mimicry; call is a harsh grating. **HH** Bushes in cultivation, open forest, gardens.



Grey-backed Shrike *Lanius tephronotus* 25 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; winters in Himalayas and on adjacent plains in N and NE India and in Bangladesh. **ID** Adult from Long-tailed Shrike by uniform (darker) grey upperparts, with rufous on uppertail-coverts (lacking rufous on scapulars and upper back). Also lacks or has very narrow black forehead band, and lacks (or has only very indistinct) white patch at base of primaries. Juvenile has brown ear-coverts; cold grey upperparts (except for the rufous-brown uppertail-coverts), with indistinct black subterminal crescents and buff fringes to feathers; rufous fringes and indistinct black subterminal borders to the coverts and tertials; and dark scaling on the breast and flanks. Uniform cold grey base coloration to the upperparts is the best distinction from juvenile Long-tailed Shrike. **Voice** Harsh grating call. **HH** Bushes in cultivation, scrub and secondary growth.

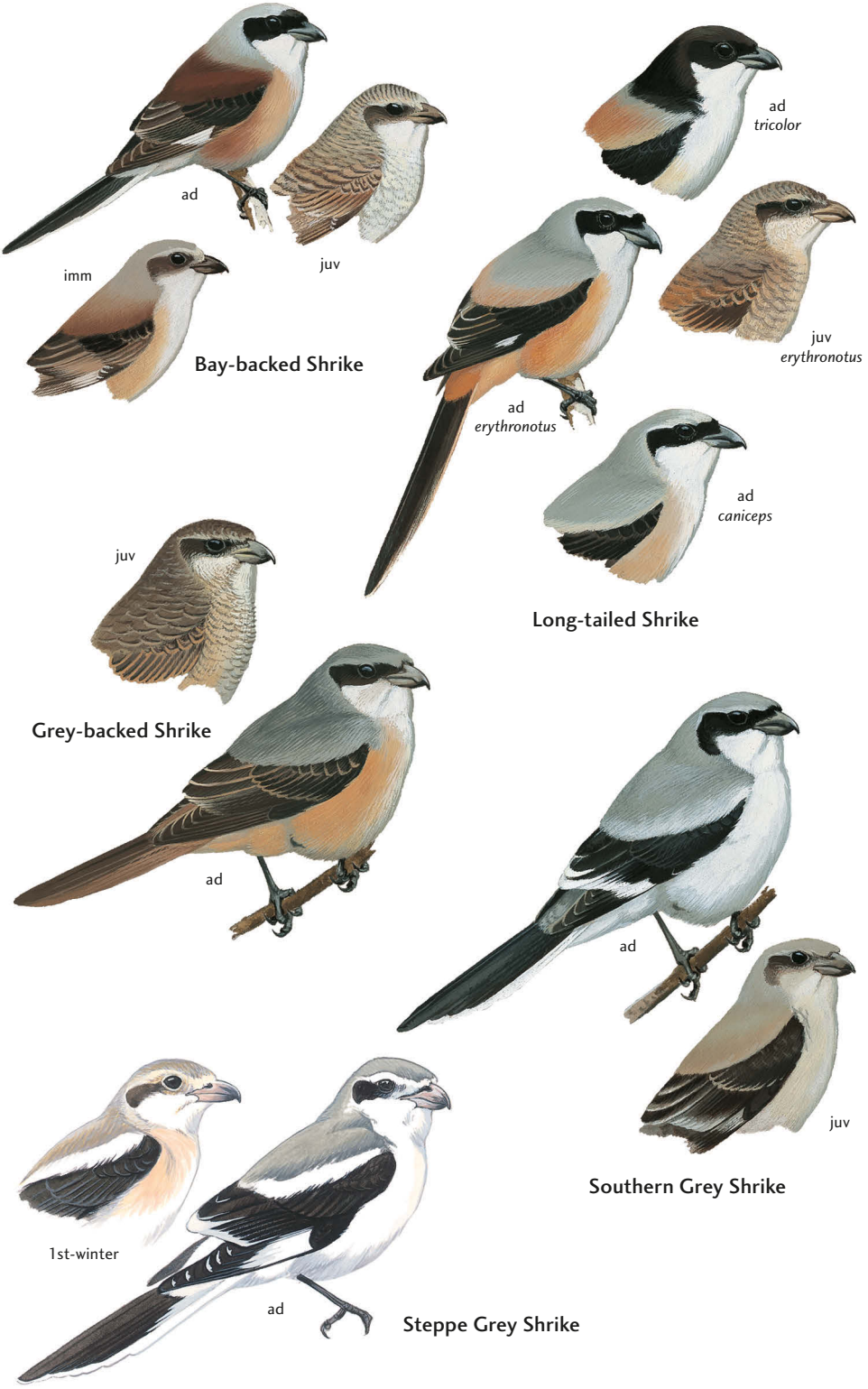


Southern Grey Shrike *Lanius meridionalis* 24 cm

Resident. Mainly N, NW and W subcontinent. **ID** Throughout most of range, likely to be confused only with Grey-backed and Long-tailed. Adult told from those species by paler grey mantle and white scapulars, bold white markings on black wings and tail, greyish rump, and white breast and flanks. Black of mask extends over forehead and down sides of neck. Has extensive white patch at base of primaries and, with inner webs of secondaries and tips of outer webs also largely white, shows much white in wing at rest and in flight. Juvenile has sandy cast to grey crown and mantle, with very indistinct barring on crown, buff tips to tertials and median and greater coverts, and faint buffish wash to underparts; mask is grey, and does not extend over forehead as on adult. **Voice** Chattering song with harsh notes; mimics other birds. **HH** Dry country, open thorn scrub, cultivation edges.

Steppe Grey Shrike *Lanius* (*meridionalis*) *pallidirostris* 25 cm

Breeds in extreme W Pakistan; winters east to Rajasthan. **ID** From Southern Grey by lack of black on forehead and a more restricted dark mask (including dusky to whitish lores, typically strikingly pale in first-winter plumage); also has a paler grey mantle, generally a horn-coloured (rather than black) bill, and often shows a pink wash on breast; white on secondaries is confined to tips and basal half of inner webs, and therefore shows less white on inner wing in flight. **Voice** As Southern Grey. **HH** Open scrub desert.


ad
juv
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Bay-backed Shrike
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tricolor
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erythronotus
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erythronotus
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caniceps
Long-tailed Shrike
juv
Grey-backed Shrike
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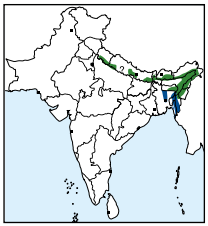
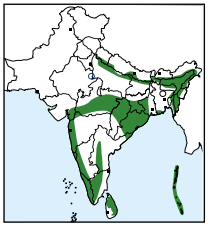
ad
juv
Southern Grey Shrike
1st-winter
ad
Steppe Grey Shrike



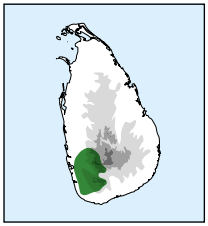
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer* 25 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Tufted forehead without crest (giving rise to rectangular head shape), square-ended tail, and smaller size and bill than Greater Racket-tailed; has smaller flattened rackets. As in Greater, tail streamers and rackets can be missing or broken in adult. Immature lacks tail-streamers and rackets, and is less heavily spangled on upperparts and underparts than adult. **Voice** Loud, varied, musical whistling, screeching and churring with much mimicry. **HH** Moist broadleaved forest.



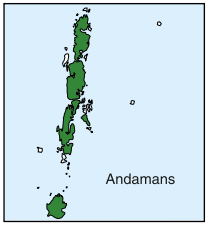
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus* 32 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Adult from Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo (where ranges overlap) by larger size and less tidy appearance, larger bill, crested head, forked tail, and longer, twisted tail-rackets. Tail-streamers and rackets can be missing or broken, and tail can appear almost square-ended when in moult (or in juvenile plumage). Juvenile initially lacks rackets; is less heavily glossed than adult, and has much-reduced crest. Has white fringes to belly and vent in first-winter plumage. Considerable subspecies variation in size, length of tail-streamers and size of crest. Subspecies in S India, Sri Lanka and Andaman and Nicobar Is have much-reduced or almost non-existent crest and can look very like Lesser Racket-tailed (but Lesser does not occur in these areas). **Voice** Loud, varied musical whistling, screeching and churring, with much mimicry. **HH** Broadleaved forest and bamboo jungle.



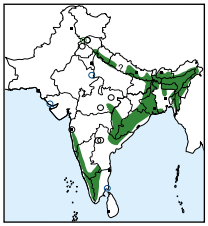
Sri Lanka Drongo *Dicrurus* (*paradiseus*) *lophorinus* 33 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka wet zone. **ID** Similar to Greater Racket-tailed, but has a long and deeply forked tail, slightly twisted at the tips, and lacks the terminal rackets. Crest is a shorter, rounded tuft. Some intermediates with Greater Racket-tailed reported. Immature has white barring on belly and flanks as Greater Racket-tailed. **Voice** As Greater. **HH** Wet zone forests and nearby hills.



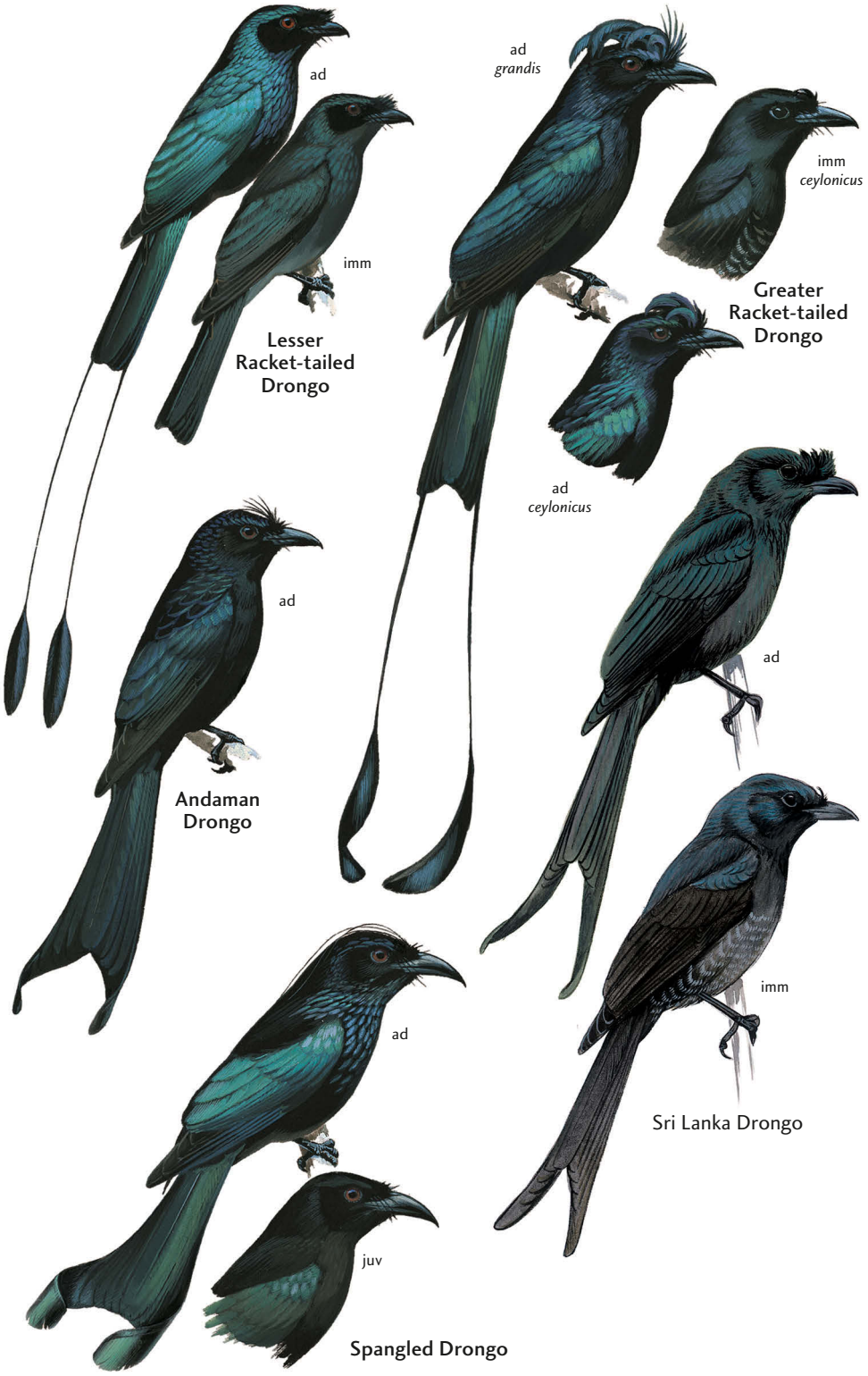
Andaman Drongo *Dicrurus andamanensis* 32 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Larger and longer bill than Black Drongo. Tail is long and broad with pronounced fork and outer feathers twisting inwards at tip. Has several hair-like filaments on forehead (less distinct than in Spangled Drongo). Juvenile is browner and less glossed, and initially has square-ended tail. **Voice** Variety of sharp metallic notes and a long *tseep*. **HH** Forest.



Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* 32 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE India, Bangladesh and Eastern and Western Ghats. **ID** Broad tail with upward-twisted corners, and long downcurved bill. Adult has extensive spangling, and hair-like crest. Juvenile is browner and lacks spangling; also lacks crest, and has square-ended tail with less pronounced upward twist to outer feathers. **Voice** A loud *chi-wiii*, the first note stressed and second rising or sometimes the single *wiii* note. **HH** Moist broadleaved forest. **AN** Hair-crested Drongo.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imm
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo
ad grandis
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Greater Racket-tailed Drongo
ad ceylonicus
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Andaman Drongo
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imm
Sri Lanka Drongo
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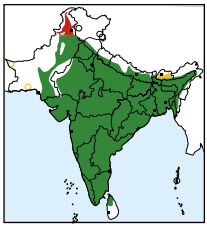
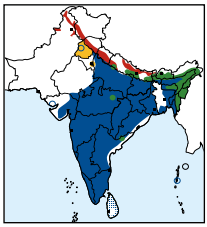
juv
Spangled Drongo



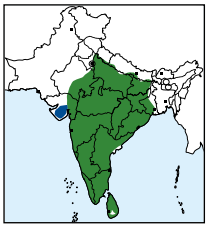
Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* 28 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** From Ashy Drongo, which can also appear dark and glossy, by blacker upperparts and shiny blue-black throat and breast, merging into black of rest of underparts; also usually shows white rictal spot and eye is duller. First-winter has black underparts with bold whitish fringes on belly which sometime form white patches. Juvenile has uniform dark brown upperparts and underparts. **Voice** A harsh *ti-tiu,* and a harsh *cheece-cheece-chichuk*; pairs duet during the breeding season. **HH** Around habitation and cultivation.



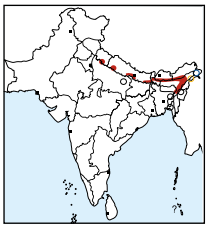
Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* 29 cm

Breeds in Himalayas and NE Indian hills; winters in plains in peninsula and Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult has dark grey underparts and slate-grey upperparts with blue-grey gloss; iris bright red. First-winter has brownish-grey underparts with indistinct pale fringes (underparts blacker and whitish fringes more distinct in Black). Juvenile as juvenile Black. E and NE *hopwoodi* paler, unglossed grey. Vagrant *salangensis* even paler with white lores and ear-coverts; pale grey coverts and secondaries contrast with blackish primaries. **Voice** Like Black but more varied, includes a whistling *kil-ki-kil*. **HH** Breeds in forest; winters in well-wooded areas.



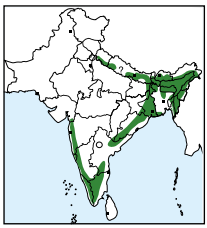
White-bellied Drongo *Dicrurus caerulescens* 24 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan and the northeast. **ID** Whitish from belly downwards, although white less extensive in Sri Lanka, where Wet Zone subspecies (*leucopygialis*) has white restricted to vent and undertail-coverts. Smaller than Black and Ashy, and tail is shorter and fork is typically shallower. Upperparts are glossy slate-grey, much as Ashy (and therefore less black than Black). Throat and breast are browner in first-winter compared with adult (except for *leucopygialis*) and border between breast and white belly is less clearly defined. **Voice** Similar to Black, but more continuous, richer and with fewer harsh notes. **HH** Open forest and well-wooded areas.



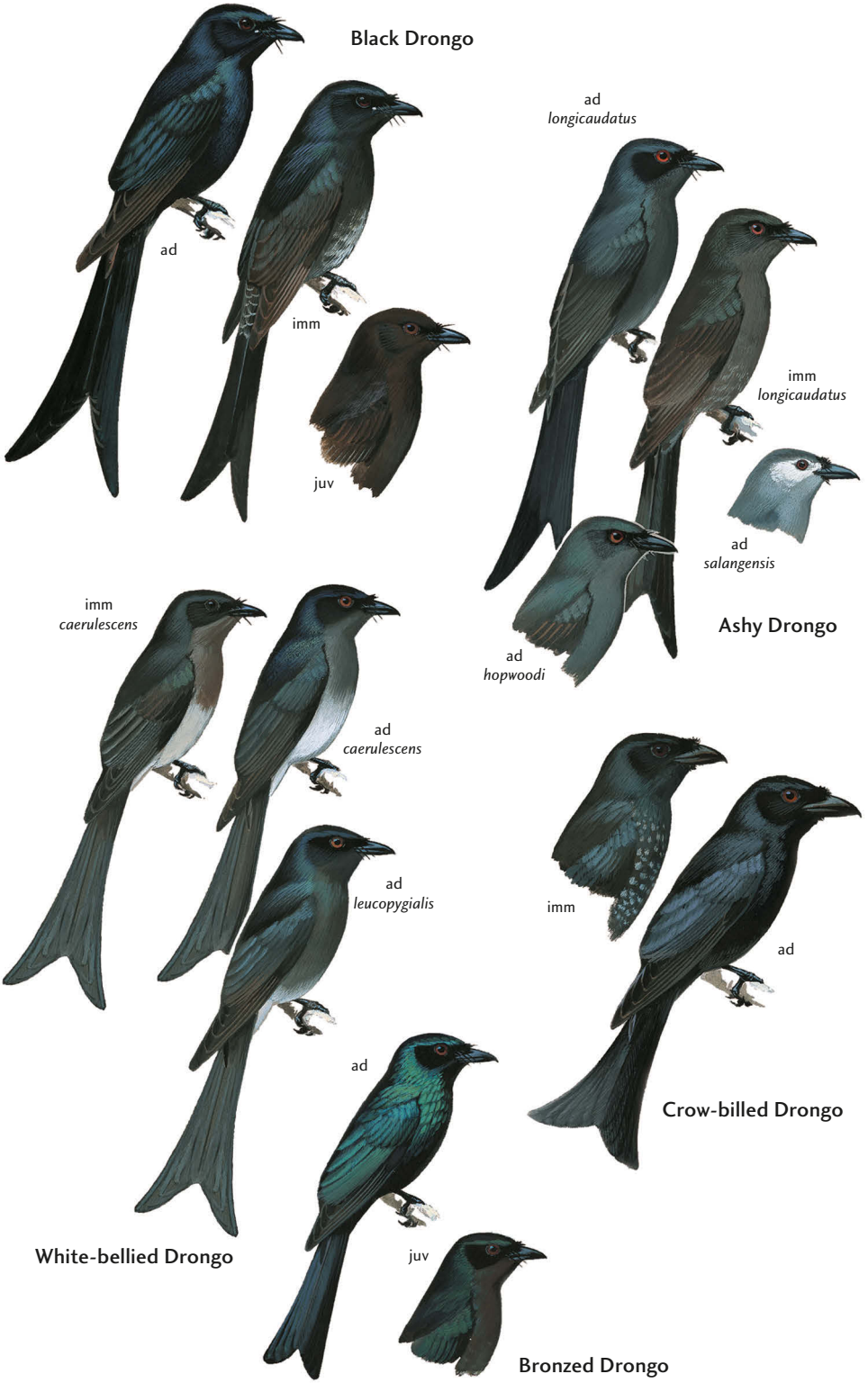
Crow-billed Drongo *Dicrurus annectans* 28 cm

Summer visitor/resident (?) in Himalayan foothills and NE India; winters in NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Black by much stouter bill, more extensive area of rictal bristles (resulting in tufted forehead not unlike that of Lesser Racket-tailed), and shorter, broader tail which is widely splayed at tip but not deeply forked (with outer feathers more noticeably curving outwards). Note also habitat differences from Black. First-winter has white spotting from breast to undertail-coverts (recalling first-winter Greater Racket-tailed). Juvenile has uniform brownish-black upperparts and underparts which lack gloss. **Voice** Loud, musical whistles and chirrs. **HH** Moist broadleaved forest.



Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus* 24 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE India, Bangladesh and Eastern and Western Ghats. **ID** Small size, with flatter bill compared with Black and less deeply forked tail (which can be almost square-ended on moulting or juvenile birds). Note also habitat differences. Adult is strongly glossed with metallic blue-green. Juvenile has brown underparts, and duller and less heavily spangled upperparts. **Voice** Loud, varied musical whistles and chirrs. **HH** Moist broadleaved forest.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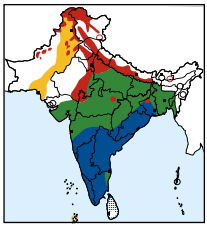
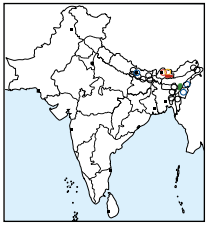


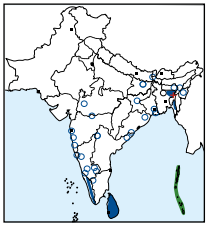
Indian Golden Oriole *Oriolus (oriolus) kundoo* 25 cm

Summer visitor to W Pakistan, Himalayas and N plains; resident N and C India; winters further south. **ID** Adult male has small black eye-patch, golden-yellow head and body, largely black wings with yellow carpal patch and prominent tips to tertials/secondaries, and yellow-and-black tail. Adult female has yellowish-green upperparts, blackish streaking on whitish underparts (with variable yellow on sides of breast), brownish-olive wings, yellow rump, brownish-olive tail with yellow corners. Some (older?) females have unstreaked (or faintly streaked) yellow underparts and brighter yellow upperparts. Immature similar to adult female, but bill and eyes are dark; initially duller on upperparts and more heavily streaked on underparts; suggestion of dark stripe behind eye recalls Slender-billed. **Voice** Song is a loud, fluty *weela-whee-oh*; call is a harsh, nasal *kaach*. **HH** Open woodland. **TN** Treated here as conspecific with Eurasian Golden Oriole *O. oriolus* (see Appendix).



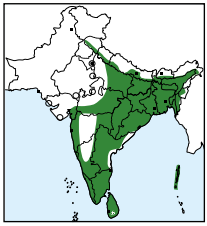
Slender-billed Oriole *Oriolus tenuirostris* 27 cm

Breeds in E Himalayas and NE India; winters west to C Nepal and Bihar. **ID** Long, slender, slightly downcurved bill, and narrower nape band, compared with Black-naped Oriole. Male similar in coloration to female Black-naped but with broad yellow tips to tertials and edges to flight feathers. Female similar to male, but has dull black nape band, duller yellow head and underparts, and duller olive-yellow upperparts. Immature initially has dark bill and eye, more uniformly olive wings, and whitish underparts with black streaking; nape band and eye-stripe can be very diffuse. Diffuse nape band if apparent, and longer bill, are best features from immature Indian Golden. **Voice** Mellow, fluty notes *wheeow* or *chuck, tarry-you*. **HH** Well-wooded areas.



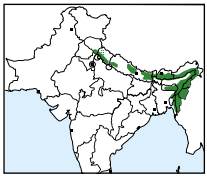
Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* 27 cm

Winter visitor to India and Bangladesh; resident on Andamans and Nicobars; status elsewhere uncertain. **ID** Larger, stouter bill than Slender-billed. Black mask typically broader across nape than Slender-billed (similar width in some; poorly defined in immature). Male has yellow mantle and wing-coverts concolorous with underparts (brighter than in Slender-billed). Mantle and wing-coverts olive in female (and as Slender-billed). Female and immature not separable from Slender-billed by plumage. Heavier bill and diffuse nape band best features from immature Indian Golden. In Andaman and Nicobars has largely black wings; in Nicobars also has larger bill and broader nape band. **Voice** A cat or jay-like squeal; song like Indian Golden. **HH** Broadleaved forest.



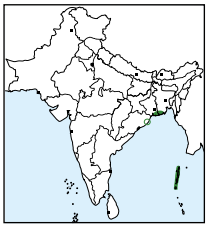
Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus* 25 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Adult male has glossy black head contrasting with golden-yellow body, bold yellow edges to black tertials and secondaries, and mainly yellow tail. Adult female similar, but has olive-yellow mantle. Immature has dark bill, yellow forehead, yellow streaking on crown and sides of head, black streaking on white throat, diffuse black streaking on yellow breast, and duller wings with narrow yellowish edges to flight feathers. **Voice** A mixture of mellow, fluty notes and harsh notes. **HH** Open broadleaved forest and well-wooded areas.



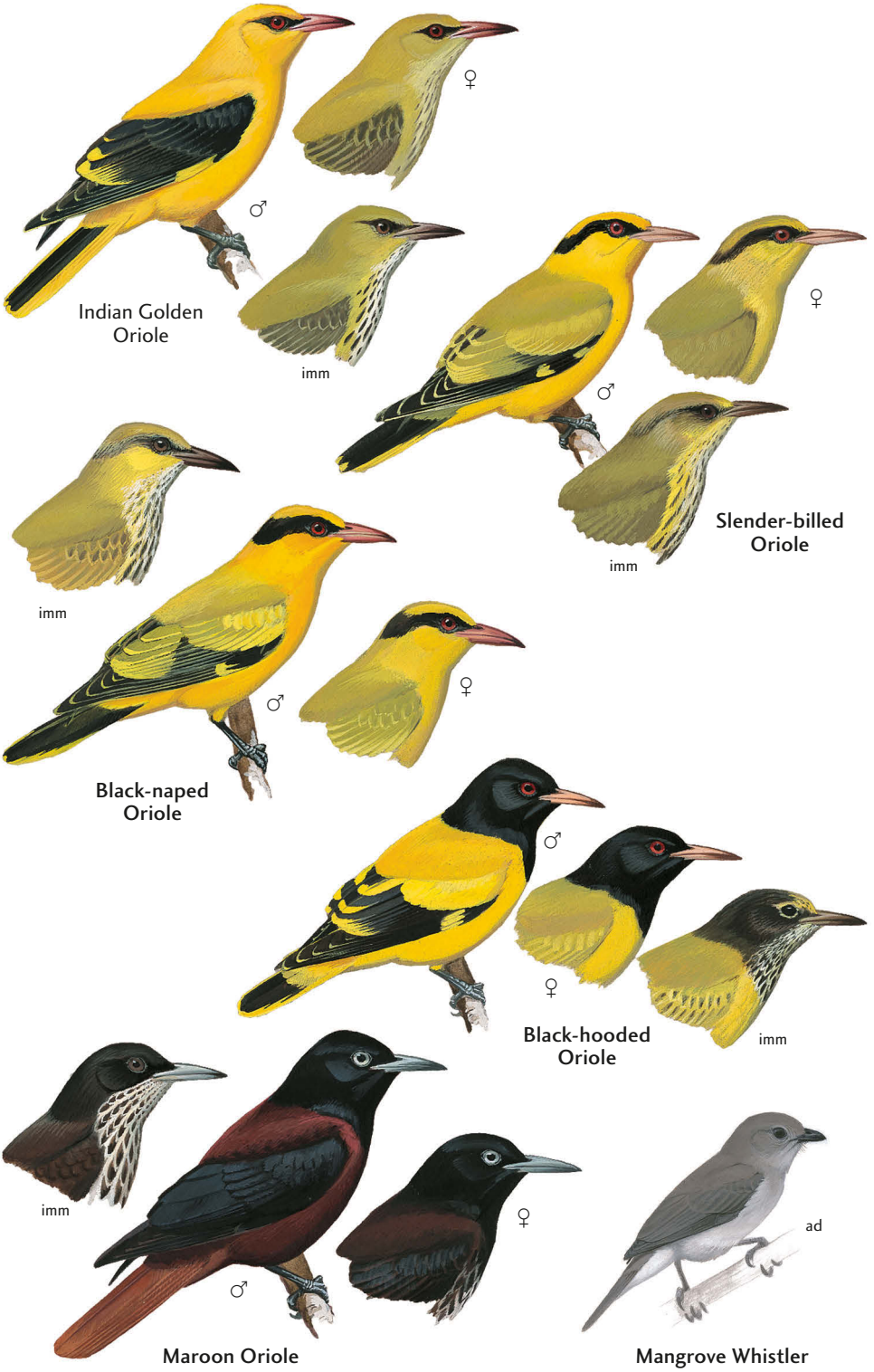
Maroon Oriole *Oriolus traillii* 27 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Maroon rump, vent and tail in all plumages. Adult has blue-grey bill and pale yellow iris. Male has black head, breast and wings contrasting with glossy maroon body. Female similar but duller maroon mantle, whitish belly and flanks with diffuse maroon-grey streaking. Immature has uniform brown upperparts, including wings, whitish underparts streaked dark brown, brown iris. Juvenile has orange-buff fringes to upperparts and tips to coverts. **Voice** Song a rich fluty *pi-io-io,* nasal squawking call. **HH** Broadleaved forest.



Mangrove Whistler *Pachycephala cinerea* 17 cm

Resident. Sunderbans in India and Bangladesh, and Andamans. **ID** Rather drab, with thick black bill, grey-brown upperparts, greyish-white throat and breast merging into silvery-white of rest of underparts (some with whiter throat). **Voice** Variable phrase with 2–4 introductory notes and the last note louder, shriller and more explosive. **HH** Mangroves.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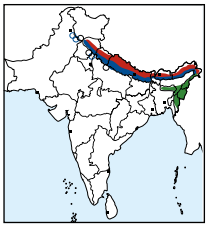
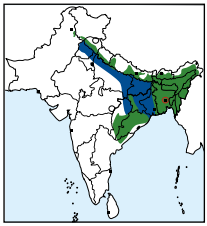


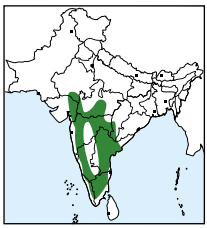
Yellow-bellied Fantail *Chelidorhynx hypoxantha* 13 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From other fantails by yellow forehead and supercilium, dark mask, yellow underparts, greyish-olive upperparts, and blackish tail which is boldly tipped with white. Long, fanned tail is best feature from Black-faced Warbler. Male has black mask, which is dark olive-brown on female. Juvenile resembles female, but lacks yellow on forehead and has duller and paler supercilium and underparts, and greyer upperparts. **Voice** Constantly uttered *sip sip* notes strung together to comprise a trilling song. **HH** A lively and active bird, characteristically erecting and spreading tail. Forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Rhipidura*.



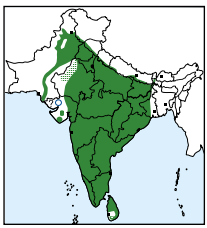
White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis* 19 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE and E India and Bangladesh. **ID** From White-browed Fantail by narrow white supercilium and white throat, lack of spotting on wing-coverts, slate-grey underparts, and smaller white tips to tail. Juvenile is browner, with body feathers, wing-coverts and tertials tipped with rufous; throat is dark. **Voice** Song is a descending series of weak whistles *tri... riri... riri... riri... riri*; call is a squeaky *cheek*. **HH** Forest, secondary growth and wooded areas.



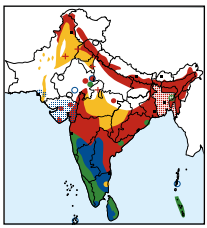
White-spotted Fantail *Rhipidura* (*albicollis*) *albogularis* 19 cm

Resident in peninsula north to Rajasthan and Gangetic Plain. **ID** From White-browed by narrow white supercilium and white throat, lack of spotting on wing-coverts, white-spotted grey breast, buff belly, and less white in tail. Underparts quite different from White-throated and has longer white supercilium and much less white in tail. Juvenile similar to adult, with rufous spots on wing coverts. Intergrades with White-throated in NE peninsula, where it has a dark grey crown contrasting with olive-brown mantle and unspotted grey breast and flanks. **Voice** Song is like that of White-browed, but slower. Calls include a scratchy *check* repeated irregularly, often in rapid series. **HH** Wooded areas and secondary forest.



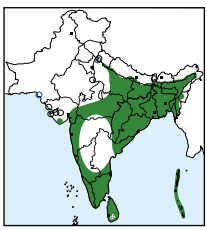
White-browed Fantail *Rhipidura aureola* 18 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** From White-throated and White-spotted by broader white supercilia, which meet across forehead and extend farther back to reach nape, by variable blackish throat and white submoustachial stripe, and white spotting on wing coverts. Throat is spotted with variable amounts of white or grey (and can sometimes appear almost white, as in White-throated). Underparts are white. Juvenile similar to adult, but has browner upperparts, with rufous tips to body feathers, tertials and coverts. **Voice** Song is an ascending, then descending series of clear whistles; call is a harsh *chuck*. **HH** Forest and wooded areas.



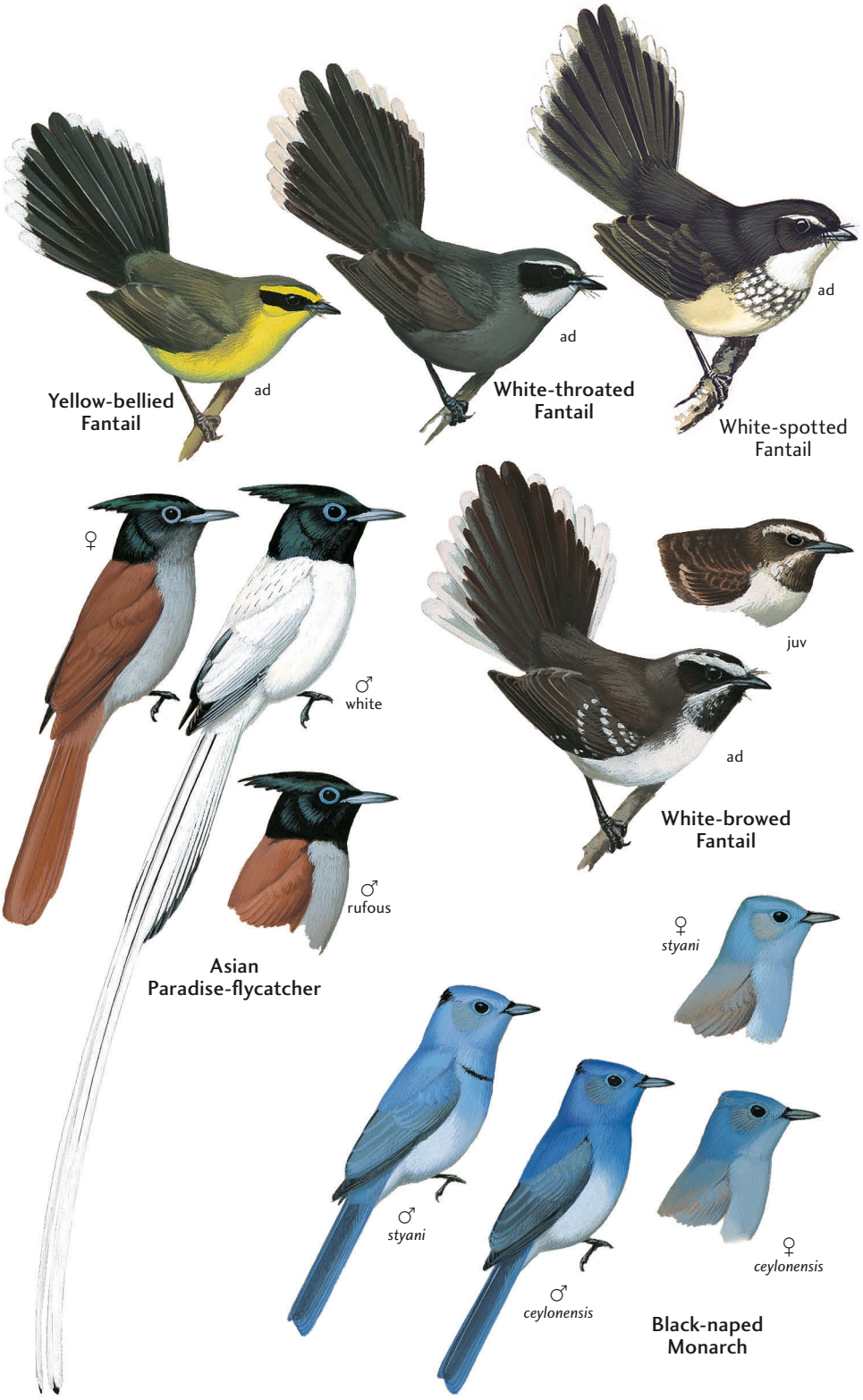
Asian Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi* 20 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Male has black head and crest, with white or rufous upperparts and long tail-streamers. Intermediate birds, showing rufous and white in plumage, occur. Female and immature are similar to rufous male, but have shorter crest and short square-ended tail; throat and lower ear-coverts are greyer. Juvenile is similar to female, but shows indistinct pale centres and dark fringes to breast feathers. **Voice** Song is a slow warble, *peety-to-whit*, repeated quickly; calls and alarm include a nasal *chechwe*, and a harsh *wee poor willie weep-poor willie*. **HH** Perches with an upright stance high in trees, before darting out to catch flying insects. Forest and well-wooded areas.



Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* 16 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Male almost entirely azure-blue, with black nape patch, black gorget across upper breast (except in Sri Lanka), beady black eye and black feathering at bill-base. Female duller blue head, lacks black nape patch or gorget, and has blue-grey breast and grey-brown mantle, wings and tail. Male *H. a. tytleri* of Andamans has blue or mainly blue (not white) belly. Male *H. a. ceylonensis* of Sri Lanka lacks gorget, has a smaller nape patch, and is generally more purplish-blue than in peninsula (*H. a. styani*); female brighter blue on head, neck and breast and has blue wash to browner mantle. **Voice** Rasping, high-pitched *sweech-which* and a ringing *pwee-pwee-pwee-pwee*. **HH** Captures insects by making sorties from a perch. Broadleaved forest.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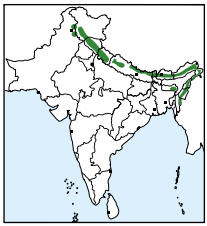
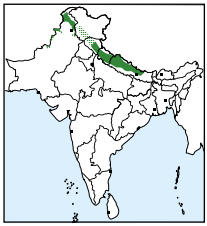


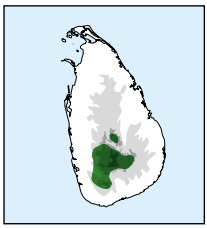
Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* 32–36 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Pinkish- to reddish-brown, with beady eye, stout black bill and black moustachial stripe. Wings and tail are mainly black, with patches of cobalt-blue barring. In flight, shows prominent white rump which contrasts with black tail. Flight action is slow and laboured, with rather jerky beats of its rounded wings. In W Himalayas *G. g. bispecularis* has vinaceous-fawn body; *G. g. interstinctus* of E Himalayas has a darker reddish-brown body. **Voice** Alarm call is a loud, rasping *skaaaak-skaaaak*. **HH** Found singly, in pairs or in family parties in breeding season; in autumn and winter often gathers in flocks and often with blue magpies and Black-headed Jays. Temperate forest, mainly broadleaved.



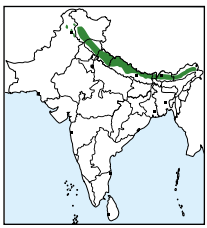
Black-headed Jay *Garrulus lanceolatus* 33 cm

Resident. NW mountains of Pakistan and Himalayas. **ID** Has black (slightly crested) head, white-streaked black throat, stout grey bill, and pinkish-fawn upperparts and underparts variably washed with blue-grey. Wings have patches of blue barring, similar to Eurasian Jay, but also white carpal patch and tips to tertials and flight feathers. In flight, show pinkish-fawn rump (rather than white in Eurasian), and has longer mainly blue tail with black cross-bars and white tip. Juvenile is similar, but duller and browner. **Voice** Alarm call similar to that of Eurasian Jay, but usually a single, flatter *skaaaak*. **HH** In autumn and winter often in parties with Eurasian Jay or Yellow-billed Blue Magpie. Mixed temperate forest.



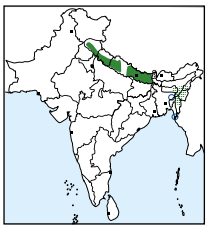
Sri Lanka Blue Magpie *Urocissa ornata* 42–47 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Very distinctive, with red bill, eye-ring and legs/feet, chestnut head, breast and flight feathers, blue body, and long white-tipped blue tail. Juvenile is duller, with brown eye-ring, and grey wash to blue body (especially on underparts). **Voice** Very varied, including a far-carrying loud jingle *chink-chink*, a rasping *crakrakrakrak* and a loud *whee-whee*. **HH** Usually in groups of up to six. Evergreen broadleaved forest. Globally threatened.



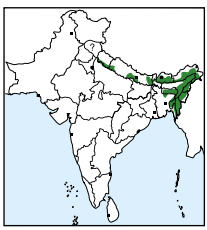
Yellow-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa flavirostris* 61–66 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** From Red-billed Blue by yellow or orange-yellow bill, small white crescent on nape, duller blue-grey mantle and wings. Juvenile similar to adult, but has duller head and upperparts, more extensive white on nape, and dull olive-yellow bill. In W Himalayas *U. f. cucullata* has white underparts and bluer mantle and wings than *U. f. flavirostris* of E Himalayas, which has greyer mantle and wings and primrose-yellow wash to underparts. **Voice** A wheezy *bu-zeep-peck-peck-peck, pop-upclea, pu-pu-weer* and a high *clear-clear*. **HH** Usually in pairs or flocks of up to ten. Parties cross clearings in single file. Forages with agility, hopping from branch to branch, also feeds on ground, progressing in long hops. Temperate mixed forest.



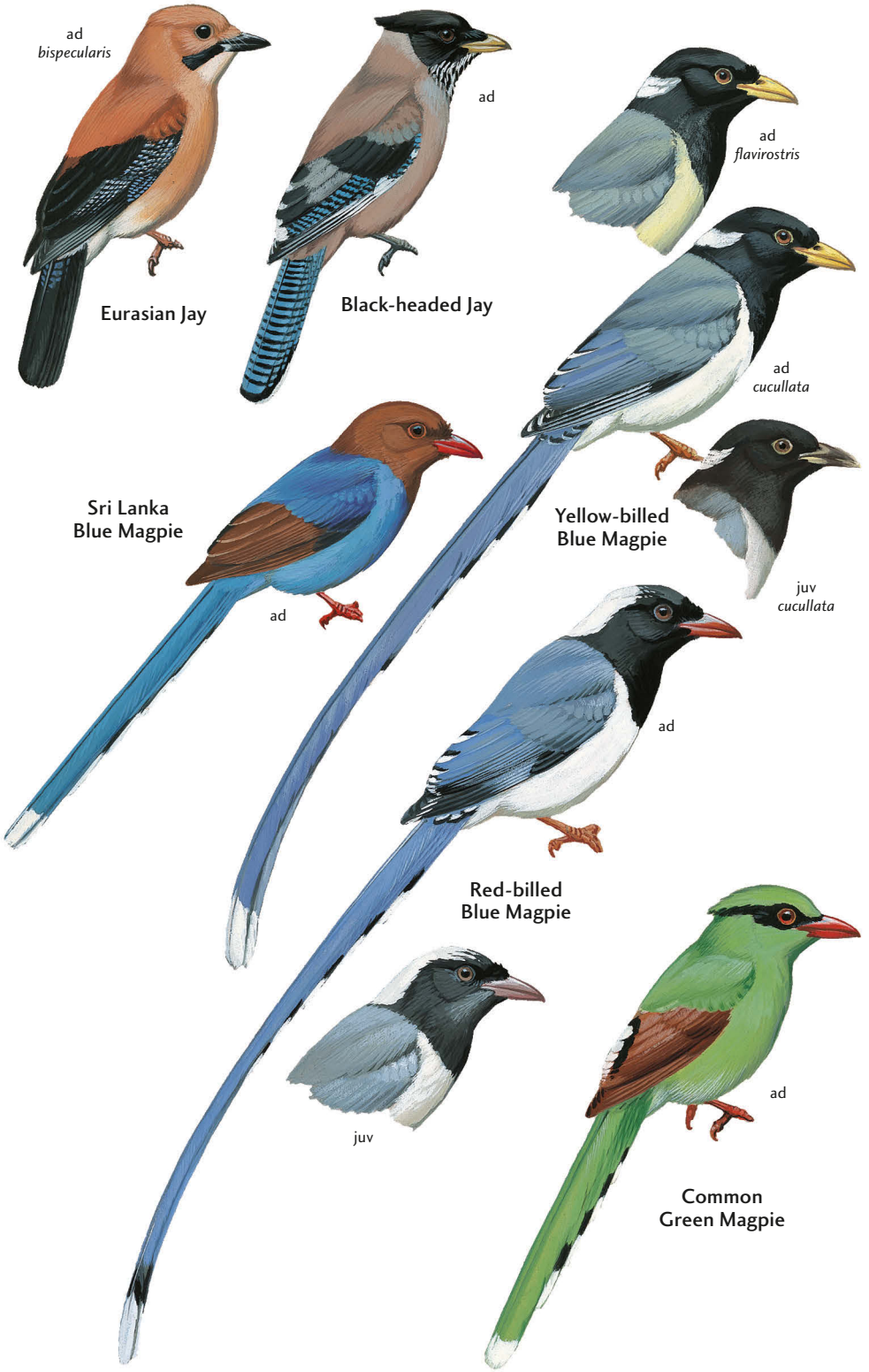
Red-billed Blue Magpie *Urocissa erythrorhyncha* 65–68 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Yellow-billed by red or orange-red bill, more extensive white nape (with white speckling on hind crown), and brighter turquoise-blue mantle and wings. Juvenile has duller blue-grey upperparts, dull brownish-red bill, and a more extensive white crown. Upperparts are darker purplish-blue in eastern *U. e. magnirostris*. **Voice** A piercing *quiv-pig-pig*, a softer *beeee-trik*, a subdued *kluk* and a sharp *chwenk-chwenk*. **HH** Habits similar to those of Yellow-billed. Broadleaved forest and trees in cultivation.



Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis* 37–39 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Mainly lurid green, with red bill and legs, black mask, rufous-chestnut wings, black-and-white-tipped tertials and secondaries, and long, graduated black-and-white-tipped green tail. In captivity green coloration can bleach to pale blue and chestnut wings can fade to olive-brown. Juvenile is similar to adult, but has dull yellow bill and legs, shorter crest, and paler underparts. **Voice** Highly variable: harsh *chakakakakakakak* or *chkakak-wi*; high-pitched *wi-chi-chi, jao... wichitchit... wi-chi-chi, jao* with shriller *jao* notes and complex high shrill whistles combined with mimicry. **HH** Keeps in pairs or small parties, often with roaming mixed species flocks. Broadleaved evergreen and moist deciduous forest.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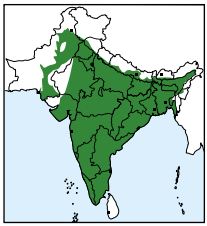
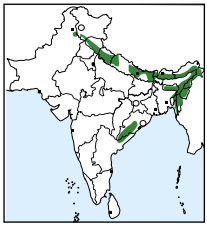
Green Magpie



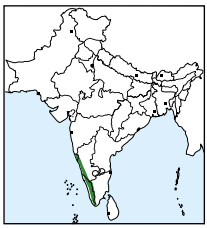
Rufous Treepie *Dendrocitta vagabunda* 46–50 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult from Grey by combination of uniform slate-grey hood (extending to breast), rufous-brown mantle and scapulars, pale grey wing-coverts and tertials contrasting with black of rest of wing, fulvous-buff underparts, and black-tipped silver-grey tail. In flight, pale grey wing panel, whitish subterminal tail-band, and rufous rump are useful features from Grey. Juv. similar to adult but has browner hood (less well demarcated from mantle), buffish wash to wing-coverts, and tail feathers have pale buffish tips. Five races in subcontinent; vary mainly in length of tail and richness of mantle and underpart colour. **Voice** Variety of metallic and mewing notes, often mixed with harsh rattling cry. **HH** Open wooded country.



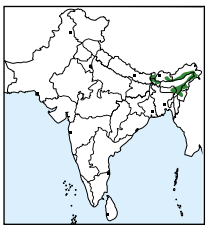
Grey Treepie *Dendrocitta formosae* 36–40 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India, Eastern Ghats and Bangladesh. **ID** Dull-coloured treepie with blackish face contrasting with grey crown, nape and underparts, dull brown mantle, black wings with white patch at base of primaries, grey rump, and rufous undertail-coverts. Juvenile is similar to adult, but has narrower black forehead, dusky throat concolorous with upper breast, browner crown and nape, whitish belly, and rufous tips to wing-coverts. **Voice** Has a wide variety of calls, often a loud, metallic, undulating *klok-kli-klok-kli-kli*. **HH** Broadleaved forest and secondary growth.



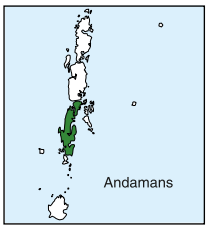
White-bellied Treepie *Dendrocitta leucogastra* 48 cm

Resident. Western Ghats and SE India. **ID** A striking white, black and rufous treepie with very long grey tail with extensive black at tip. Adult has black face and throat contrasting with white nape and underparts, rufous-brown mantle, black wings with white patch at base of primaries, white rump, and bright rufous undertail-coverts. Juvenile is similar to adult, but has narrower and shorter central tail feathers, buff fringes to white body feathers, and diffuse demarcation between black throat and white underparts. **Voice** Calls similar to those of Rufous, but harsher and more metallic, and frequently mimics Greater Racket-tailed Drongo. **HH** Evergreen hill forest and secondary growth.



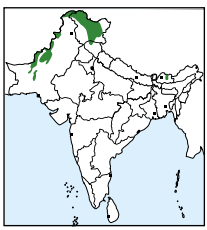
Collared Treepie *Dendrocitta frontalis* 38 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** From Rufous by black face and throat contrasting with pale grey nape and breast, and all-black tail. Additional features are smaller size, black tertials, and rufous lower belly and vent. Juvenile is similar to adult, but is duller, with brownish fringes to grey of head and breast. **Voice** Has a wide variety of calls, similar to those of other treepies. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen forest.



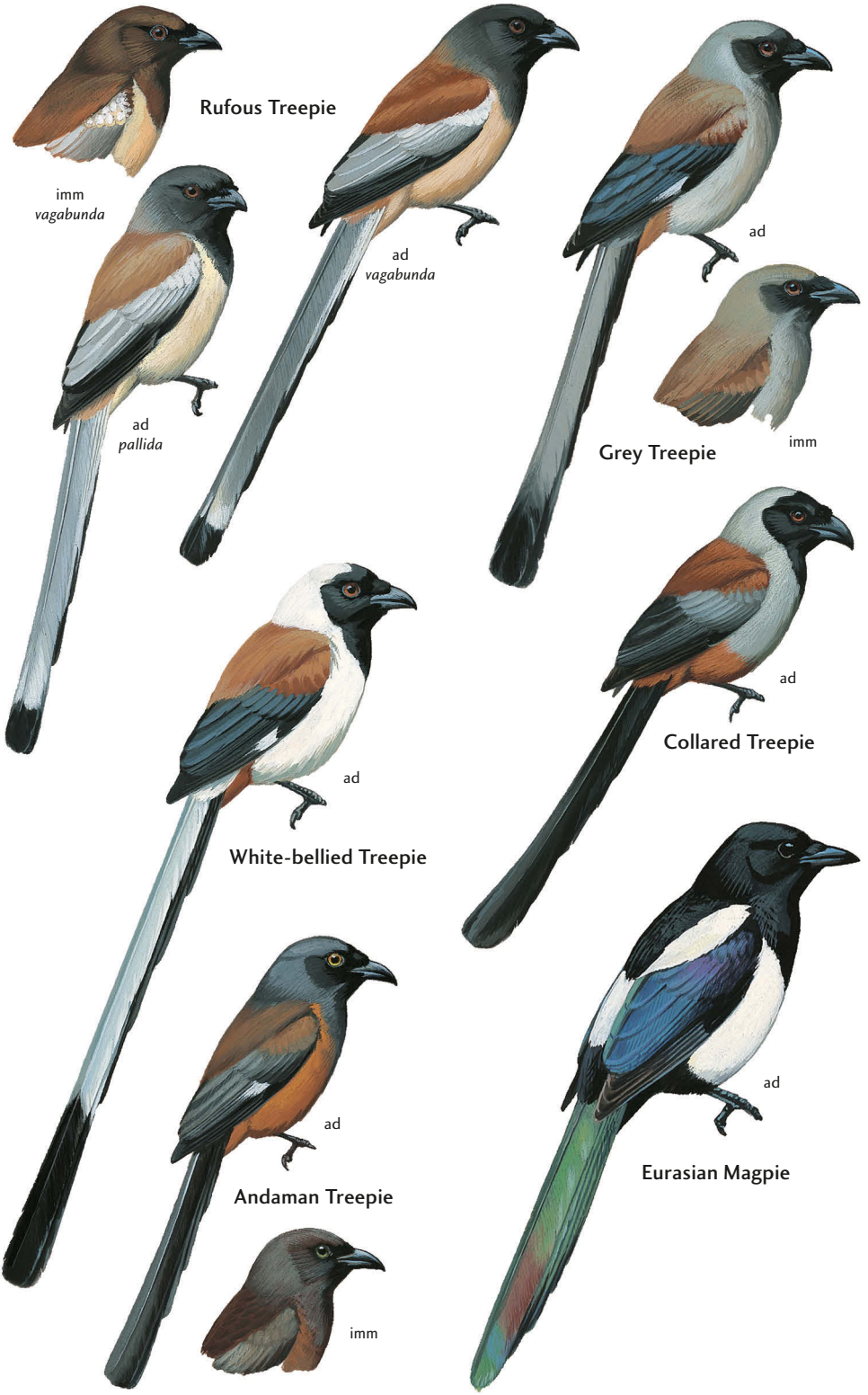
Andaman Treepie *Dendrocitta bayleii* 32 cm

Resident. Andamans, where the only treepie. **ID** A small treepie, with blue-grey head and neck (with blacker face) merging into dull rufous-brown mantle and bright rufous underparts; also blackish wings with white patch at base of secondaries, and blackish tail. Iris is strikingly yellow. Juvenile has browner hood, brownish fringes to wing-coverts, duller iris, and shorter and greyer tail. **Voice** Calls include a fluty, oriole-like whistle, *kiu-duu*, regularly repeated, and a harsh rasping *kyow* or *kiayow*. Probably has a large repertoire of harsh as well as melodious notes, like other treepies. **HH** Dense evergreen forest.



Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* 43–50 cm

Resident. Mountains of N and W Pakistan, and Himalayas in N India and N Bhutan. **ID** Body is mainly black (with weak purple-and-green sheen), with white scapulars, flanks and belly. Has metallic blue-black wings, with white inner webs to primaries showing as a white flash in flight. Tail is long, graduated, and metallic bronze-green and purple. Juvenile resembles adult, but has greyish-black head and breast. *P. p. bactriana* of the W Himalayas has a white rump, which is black in *P. p. bottanensis* of N Bhutan. **Voice** A staccato *chack-chack-chack-chack*… etc, uttered in bursts of eight or more notes; also an enquiring *ch'chack* and a squealing *keee-uck*. **HH** Open cultivated upland valleys **AN** Black-billed Magpie.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White-bellied Treepie
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Andaman Treepie
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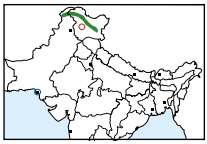
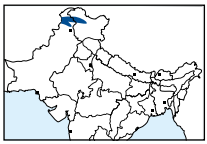
Eurasian Magpie



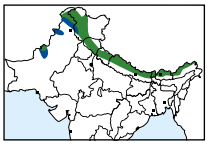
Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* 48–56 cm

Resident. Mountains of N Pakistan and NW India. **ID** From Large-billed Crow by smaller bill with straighter culmen, and flatter forehead and crown. Wing-tips almost reach tail-tip at rest (noticeably shorter than tail in Large-billed). **Voice** Call is a stronger *kraa* than that of Large-billed Crow. **HH** Open country with cultivation.



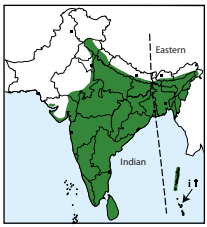
Hooded Crow *Corvus* (*corone*) *cornix* 44–48 cm

Winter visitor. Mountains of N Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Patterning superficially similar to House Crow, but whole of head and most of breast is black, mantle is grey not black, and underparts are uniformly grey to vent. Hybridises with Carrion Crow. **Voice** Call like Carrion's. **HH** Wide habitat range.



Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* 46–49 cm

Resident. Mountains of N Baluchistan and Himalayas from N Pakistan east to Arunachal. **ID** Lacks any contrast between head and neck/breast as in House Crow, and bill is stouter with more pronounced curve to culmen, Bigger and with heavier bill, wedge-shaped tail, and harsher calls, compared with jungle crows. **Voice** Call of *intermedius* (W Himalayas) is very guttural *graak, graak*; of E Himalayan *tibetosinensis* a fairly hoarse *kyarrh, kyarrh*. **HH** Wide habitat range.

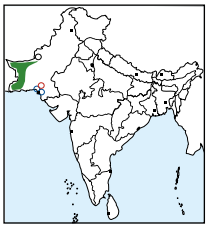


Eastern Jungle Crow *Corvus*(*macrorhynchos*) *levaillantii* 42 cm

Resident. NE India, E Nepal terai, Bangladesh and Andamans. **ID** Bill is stouter and with straighter culmen compared with Indian Jungle, but is otherwise identical except for distinctive voice. **Voice** Calls very nasal *nyark, nyark*, first rising then falling. **HH** Wooded habitats.

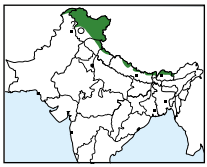
Indian Jungle Crow *Corvus* (*macrorhynchos*) *culminatus* 41 cm

Resident south from base of Himalayas to Sri Lanka, absent from NW. **ID** Compared with House Crow is entirely black, with heavier bill that has more pronounced curve to culmen. Note, however, that House in the peninsula is darker and more uniform than in the north, but still shows contrast between head and neck/breast. **Voice** Calls loud, throaty *kyearh, kyearh*. **HH** Wide range of habitats with trees.



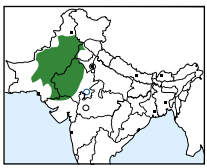
Brown-necked Raven *Corvus ruficollis* 52–56 cm

Resident. Pakistan. **ID** From Large-billed Crow by brown cast to head, neck and breast. In bright light, or when worn, brown of neck is often not apparent. Compared with Large-billed, has raven-like appearance, with longer and more angled wings showing more pronounced fingered primaries, and more markedly wedge-shaped tail. Very similar to Punjab Raven, which also has brownish cast to head and neck, and best told by thinner bill, less shaggy throat owing to shorter throat hackles, and slimmer build; at rest folded wings reach tail-tip (falling slightly short of tail on Punjab Raven). **Voice** Call is distinctive – a rising *aarg-aarg-aarg*. **HH** Desert.



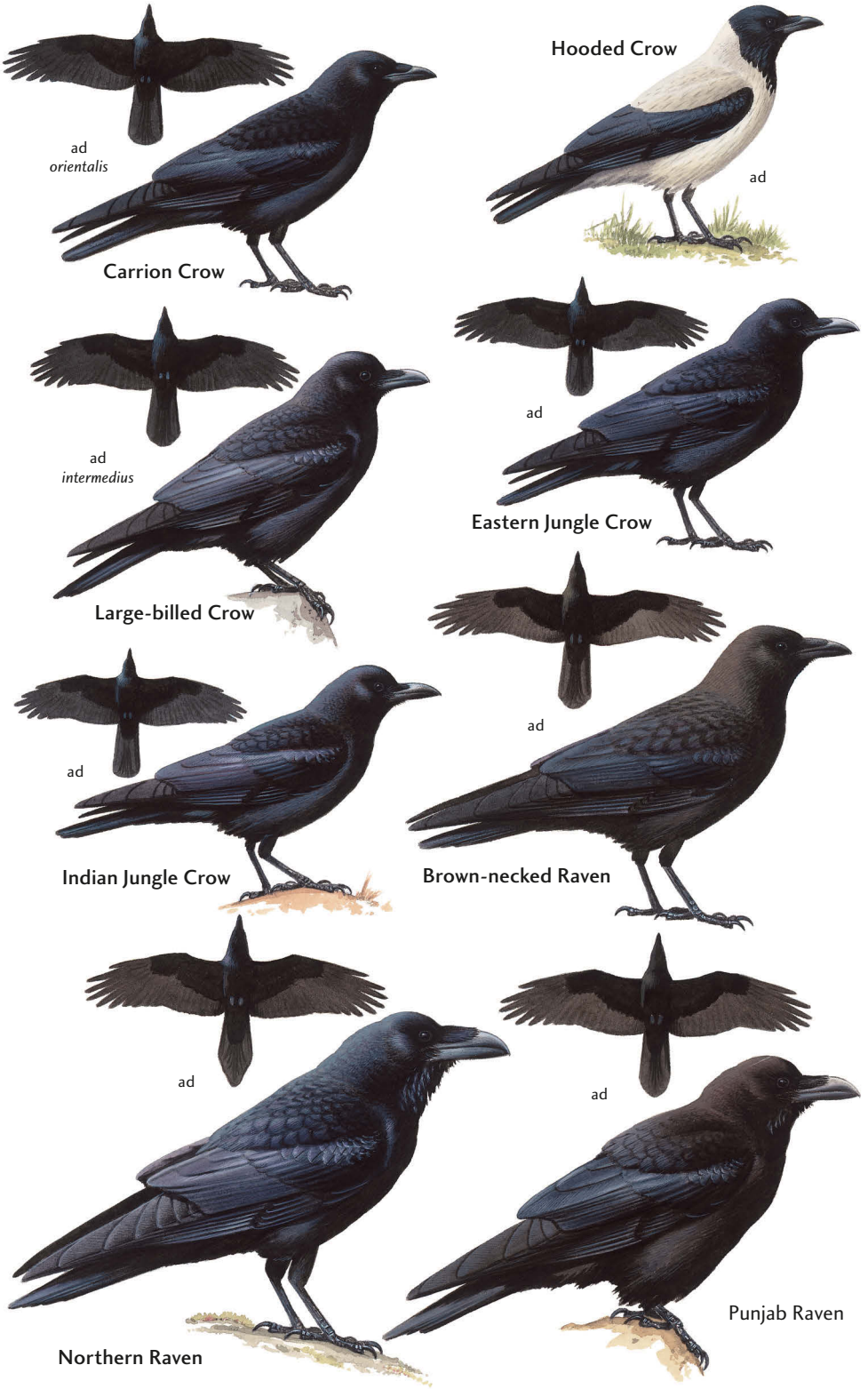
Northern Raven *Corvus corax* 58–69 cm

Resident. High Himalayas. **ID** From Large-billed, which can appear raven-like, by longer neck, longer and more angled wings with more pronounced fingered primaries, and more markedly wedge-shaped tail. On the ground, further differences are larger appearance, with more rugged and shaggy look, stouter bill with straighter culmen, prominent throat hackles and flatter crown, more extensive nasal bristles (reaching to centre of bill), and wing-tips fall just short of tail (noticeably short on Large-billed). **Voice** Typical call is a deep, resonant croaking *wock... wock*. **HH** Agile in flight, and can soar and glide well; performs impressive aerobatics, often tumbling, diving with closed wings and rolling on to the back in mid-air. Dry rocky areas above tree line.



Punjab Raven *Corvus* (*corax*) *subcorax* 51–56 cm

Resident. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Smaller than Northern, with less pronounced throat hackles. Has brownish cast to head and neck, and thus easily confused with Brown-necked. Best told by stouter bill with straighter culmen, shaggy throat owing to pronounced throat hackles, and stockier build. At rest, folded wings fall slightly short of tail. **Voice** Call is deeper, and more guttural and raucous than Brown-necked, resembles Northern's. **HH** Lowland desert and semi-desert.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Brown-necked Raven
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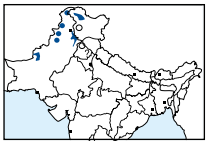
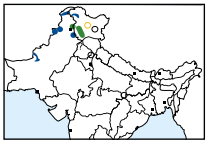
Northern Raven
Punjab Raven



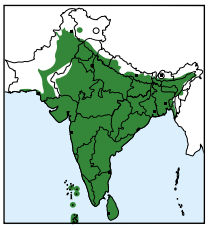
Rook *Corvus frugilegus* 47 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan. **ID** Adult has whitish skin around base of bill and throat. Juvenile has black feathering on face and throat, and lacks gloss to black plumage. Juvenile more closely resembles Carrion and Large-billed, and best told by thinner and more pointed bill (with straighter ridge to culmen), steeply rising forehead and peaked crown, and shaggy 'trousered' thighs. In flight, tail is more rounded or wedge-shaped. **Voice** Call is a drier and flatter *kaah* compared with that of Carrion Crow; also has a high-pitched *kraa-a*. **HH** Cultivation and pastures.



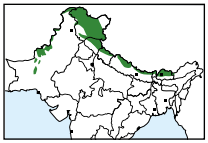
Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* 34–39 cm

Resident. Mountains of W and N Pakistan, and NW Himalayas. **ID** Adult has silky-grey nape and hind neck, whitish half-collar, slate-grey underparts, and pale grey iris. Juvenile has darker grey nape and hind neck, and darker grey iris. Flight fast; looks blunt-headed in flight with oval-shaped wings and comparatively long tail. **Voice** Call is an abrupt repeated *chjack… chjack*; a low drawn-out *chaairurr*. **HH** Open cultivated valleys.



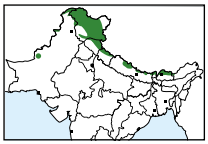
House Crow *Corvus splendens* 40 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Two-toned appearance, with paler nape, neck and breast. Adult has gloss to black of plumage, and 'collar' is well defined and becomes paler with wear. Juvenile lacks gloss, and 'collar' is duskier and less well defined. Four subspecies are recognised from the subcontinent. The northwesternmost *zugmayeri* has a paler smoky-white 'collar', strongly contrasting with black of plumage. 'Collar' is darker and greyer in the widely distributed nominate subspecies, and is less well defined in the two subspecies occurring in S India/Sri Lanka and the Maldives. **Voice** Main call is a flat, dry *kaaa-kaaa*, weaker than that of Large-billed Crow. **HH** Around human habitation and cultivation.



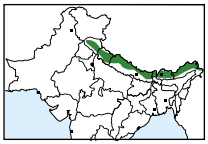
Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax* 36–40 cm

Resident. Mountains of W Pakistan and Himalayas. **ID** Longer, more downcurved, red bill is best feature from Alpine Chough. Call is also distinctive. In flight, has broader wing-tips with more pronounced fingered primaries, and square-ended tail which equals width of wing-base. Vigorous digging with downcurved bill can aid identification. Juvenile lacks metallic gloss of adult, has dark legs, and shorter browner bill (slimmer and more noticeably downcurved than in Alpine). **Voice** A far-carrying, nasal *chaow... chaow*. **HH** High mountains, alpine pastures and cultivation.



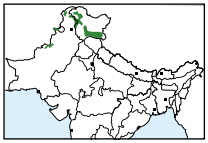
Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus* 37–39 cm

Resident. Mountains of W Pakistan and Himalayas. **ID** Shorter and straighter yellow bill is best feature from Red-billed. In flight, has narrower wing-tips with less pronounced fingered primaries, more pronounced curve to trailing edge of wing, and longer rounded tail. Juvenile lacks metallic gloss of adult, and has dark legs and duller olive-yellow bill. **Voice** A far-carrying, sweet, rippling *preeep* and a descending whistled *sweeeoo*. **HH** High mountains, alpine pastures and cultivation.



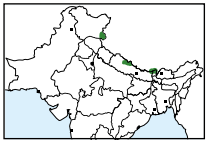
Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* 32–35 cm

Resident. Mountains of NW Pakistan and Himalayas. **ID** Largely brown, with bold white spotting on head and body, white vent, and white sides and tip to tail. Juvenile is duller and less cleanly spotted. Spotting is sparser than on Large-spotted Nutcracker, and flanks and lower belly are almost unspotted and contrast strongly with white vent. **Voice** A far-carrying dry and harsh *kraaaak*; a quiet song of various piping, squeaking whistling notes. **HH** Coniferous forest.



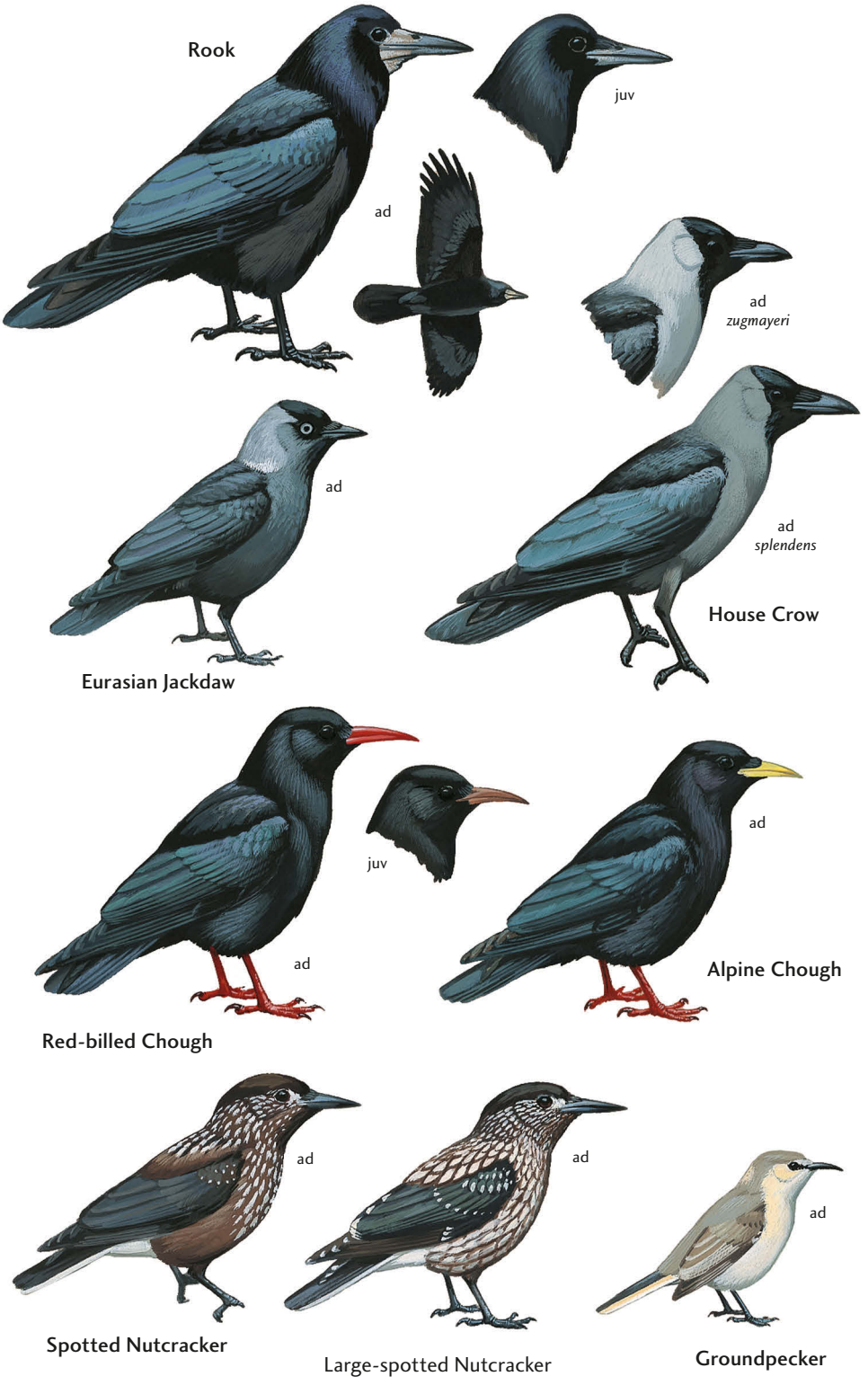
Large-spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga* (*caryocatactes*) *multipunctata* 32–35 cm

Resident. Mountains of NW Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Compared with Spotted has larger white spots on body, and on wing coverts and tertials. Bill is also finer (on some, strikingly long and thin). **Voice** Presumably similar to Spotted. **HH** Forests; around villages in deforested areas.



Groundpecker *Pseudopodoces humilis* 19 cm

Resident. Himalayas in extreme N India and N Nepal. **ID** Upright and ground-dwelling with downcurved black bill. Bounces along on ground and has weak, fluttering flight. Sandy-brown and buffish-white. Largely buffish-white tail with brown central feathers, black lores, whitish nape, broad white tips to alula. Juv. has shorter bill and lacks black lores. **Voice** A munia-like *cheep* and a whistling *chip* followed by a quick-repeated *cheep-cheep-cheep-cheep*. **HH** Tibetan steppe. **AN** Hume's Groundpecker.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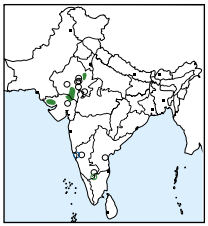
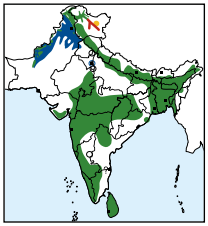
Large-spotted Nutcracker
Groundpecker



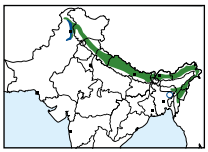
White-naped Tit *Parus nuchalis* 12 cm

Resident. NW and S India. **ID** Black mantle and wing-coverts (grey on Great Tit) and extensive patches of white on wing. Has striking white nuchal patch, lacks black lower border to white cheeks, and has white breast sides and flanks (washed with yellow in some). Male has glossy black (as opposed to dull black) mantle and more white on tertials and base of secondaries than female. **Voice** Vocabulary very similar to Great Tit's. **HH** Thorn-scrub forest. Globally threatened.



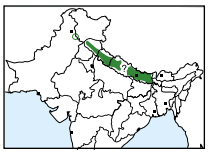
Great Tit *Parus major* 14 cm

Resident. Widespread in hills of subcontinent. **ID** Black breast centre and line down belly, greyish mantle, greyish-white breast sides and flanks, and white wing-bar. Juvenile has yellowish-white cheeks and underparts, and yellowish-olive wash to mantle. Larger and paler in NW; smaller and darker to E and S. **Voice** Extremely variable. Song includes loud, clear whistling *weeter-weeter-weeter, wreet-chee-chee;* calls include *tsee tsee tsee* and harsh churring. **HH** Forest and well-wooded country.



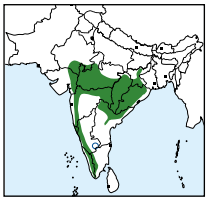
Green-backed Tit *Parus monticolus* 12.5 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From Great Tit by bright green mantle and back, yellow on breast sides and flanks, and double white wing-bars. Wings look bluish owing to blue edges to remiges. Female has duller black throat and narrower stripe down centre of belly. Juvenile is duller than adult, and white cheeks and wing-bars are washed with yellow. **Voice** Song includes loud, pleasant, ringing *whitee... whitee*; calls resemble Great Tit's. **HH** Forest.



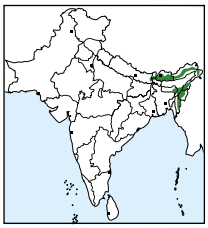
Black-lored Tit *Parus xanthogenys* 13 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Where ranges overlap in Eastern Himalayas, best told from Yellow-cheeked by black forehead and lores (yellow in Yellow-cheeked), black border to yellow cheeks, uniform greenish upperparts with black streaking confined to scapulars, and yellowish wing-bars. Sexes similar and juvenile only slightly duller with shorter crest. **Voice** Song includes *pui-pui-tee, pui-pui-tee*; calls include *tzee-tzee-wheep-wheep-wheep*. **HH** Open forest and forest edge.



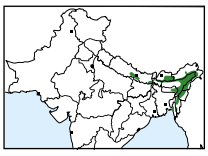
Indian Yellow Tit *Parus* (*xanthogenys*) *aplonotus* 13 cm

Resident. Peninsular hills. **ID** Male 'nominate' in N and E peninsula is similar to Black-lored but duller and with white (rather than yellow) wing-bars; often with short yellow supercilium in front of eye. Female 'nominate' has greyish-olive rather than black bib and ventral stripe, and paler yellow cheeks and underparts. In S India *travancoreensis* is duller than 'nominate'; both sexes have greyish-olive bib and ventral stripe, with yellow almost lacking in female; juvenile with dark-streaked olive crown. **Voice** Song starts with double or triple high clear notes then falls to lower wheezy or hard notes; calls include single, repeated high notes. **HH** Well-wooded areas.



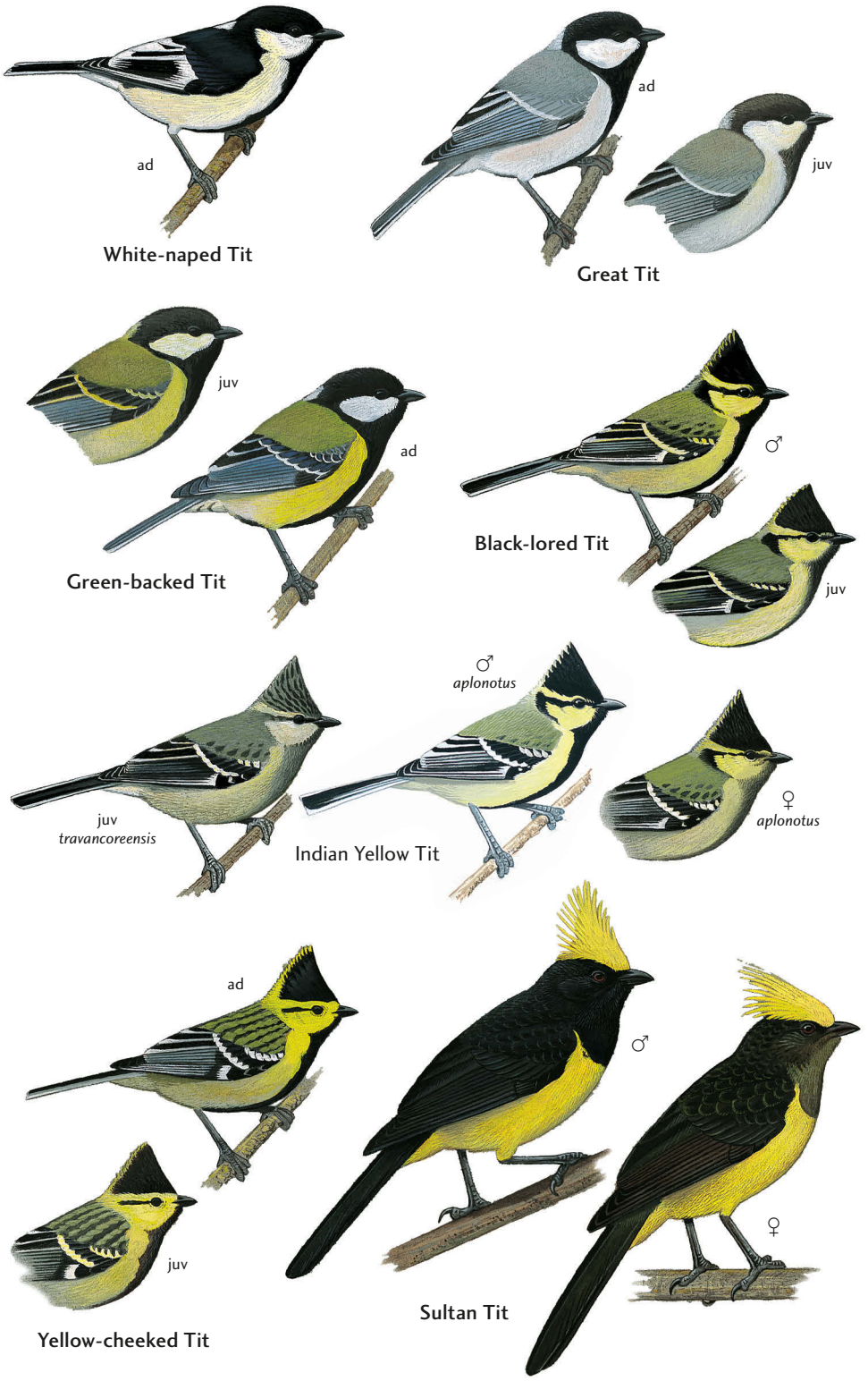
Yellow-cheeked Tit *Parus spilonotus* 14 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From Black-lored by yellow forehead and lores, absence of black border to yellow cheeks, black streaking on greenish mantle, and white wing-bars. Juvenile similar to adult, but duller, with shorter sooty-black crest, and has yellowish-white wing-bars. Sexes are similar in the nominate E Himalayan subspecies. Female *P. s. subviridis* of NE south of the Brahmaputra R has olive (rather than black) bib and ventral line, and mantle is less heavily marked with black. **Voice** Song comprises three ringing notes rapidly repeated up to six times, *chee-chee-pui*; calls resemble Great Tit's. **HH** Open forest.



Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea* 20.5 cm

Resident. C and E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** A huge, bulbul-like tit. Male is largely glossy blue-black, with bright yellow crest and yellow underparts below black breast. Female is similar, but black of plumage is duller blackish-olive (especially pronounced on throat and breast). Juvenile has shorter crest and fine yellowish-white tips to greater coverts. **Voice** Song a series of five loud *chew* notes; call a loud, squeaky whistle, *tcheery-tcheery-tcheery*. **HH** Evergreen forest.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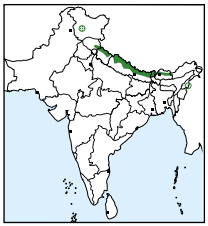
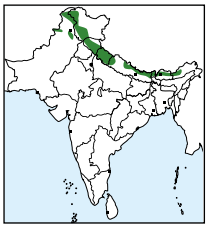


Rufous-vented Tit *Periparus rubidiventris* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas and Nagaland. **ID** Where ranges overlap in the W Himalayas, nominate is best told from Rufous-naped Tit by smaller size, rufous belly concolorous with vent, and less extensive black bib (not reaching onto belly). From 'Spot-winged' Tit (see Coal Tit) by absence of broad white tips to median and greater coverts. In E Himalayas (*beavani*) has greyish belly (variably washed buff), buffish cheeks, and purer blue-grey mantle. Juvenile has shorter crest and duller cap, yellowish cheeks, and bib is less clearly defined. **Voice** Wide variety of calls including *seet*, *piu* and *chit*; song is a variable rattling. **HH** Coniferous, mixed coniferous/broadleaved and broadleaved forests. **TN** Formerly placed in *Parus*.

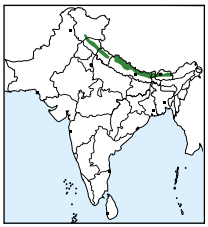
Rufous-naped Tit *Periparus rufonuchalis* 13 cm

Resident. Baluchistan and W Himalayas. **ID** From Rufous-vented by larger size, more extensive black bib (extending onto upper belly), grey (rather than rufous) lower belly. Also has variable rufous wash to white nape and rufous patch on sides of breast. Note that eastern subspecies of Rufous-vented has grey belly, but otherwise above-mentioned features still hold. From 'Spot-winged' by larger size, uniform wings, and more extensive black bib. Juvenile has shorter crest; mantle and belly are suffused with brown, undertail-coverts are buff, and black bib is duller and less extensive. **Voice** Song is monotonous, repeated two-note whistle. Call is repeated three notes, the first two are metallic squeaks, third is a downward inflected whistle. **HH** Coniferous forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Parus*.



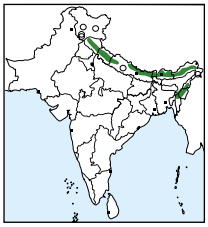
Coal Tit *Periparus ater* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Black crest, white nape and cheeks, and black throat and breast. It has whitish tips to median and greater coverts. Small size and whitish wing spots separate it from other black-crested tits. Juvenile lacks crest, and cap and bib are brownish, with bib very poorly defined; has stronger olive cast to mantle, and yellowish wash to cheeks and breast. 'Spot-winged' Tit (NW Himalayas to W Nepal) *P. a. melanolophus* differs from *aemodius* (C and E Himalayas) by having rufous breast sides and flanks, dark grey belly and darker blue-grey mantle. In WC Nepal a variety of intergrades occur. **Voice** Song is low-pitched, slow *wee-tsee…wee-tsee…wee-tsee*; calls include a thin *tsi tsi*, a *pip, pip-sziu* and a plaintive *tsi-tsu-whichooh*. **HH** Mainly coniferous forest, also occurs in mixed coniferous/broadleaved forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Parus*.



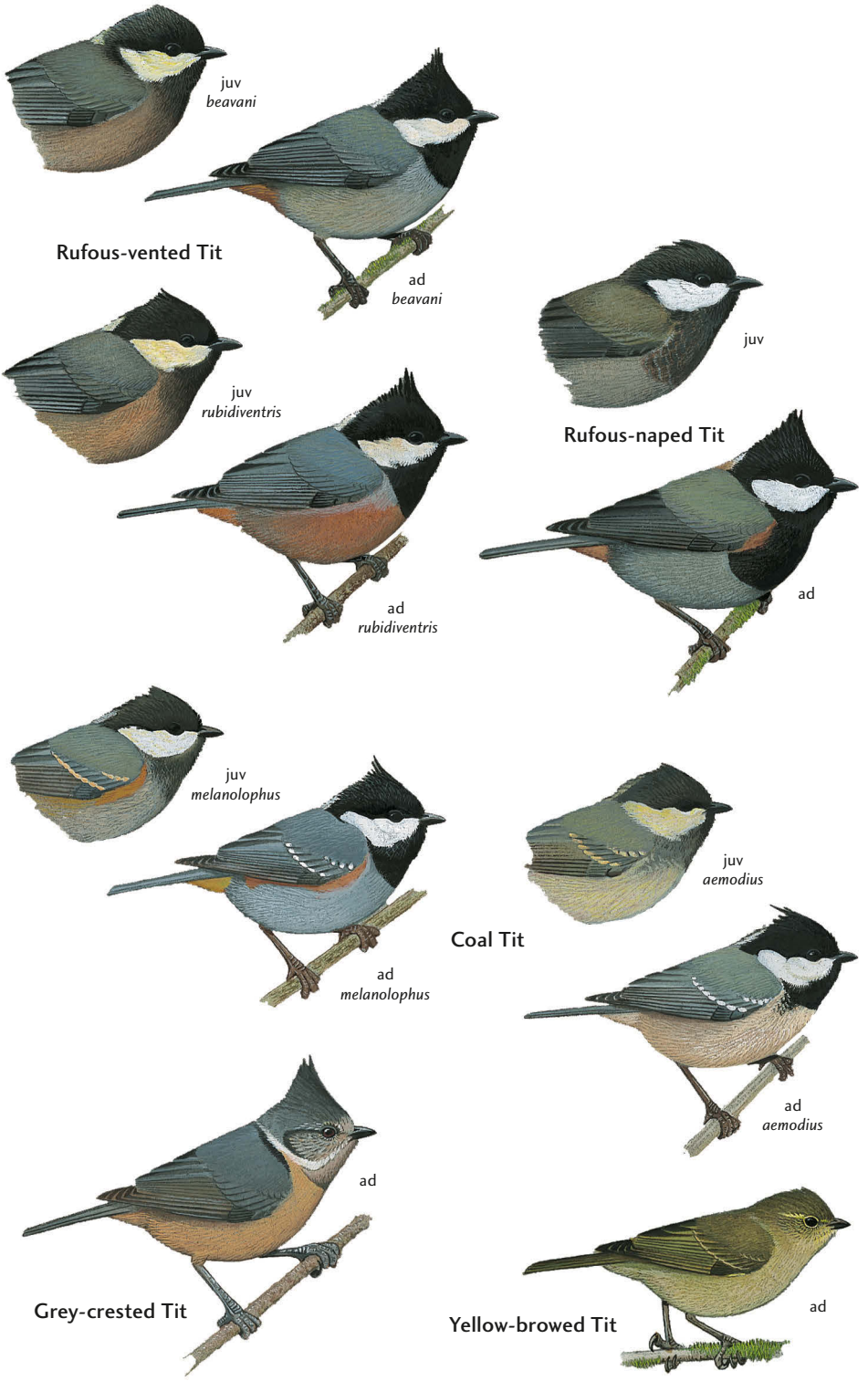
Grey-crested Tit *Lophophanes dichrous* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Very different from other crested tits. Adult has greyish crest and upperparts, buffish-white half-collar and submoustachial stripe, greyish-buff throat, and orange-buff underparts. Juvenile has shorter crest, and paler and less uniform underparts. **Voice** Song is a *whee-whee-tz-tz-tz*; alarm call is a rapid *cheea, cheea* and *ti-ti-ti-ti-ti*. **HH** Mainly oak and other broadleaved forest, also in mixed broadleaved/coniferous and coniferous forests. **TN** Formerly placed in *Parus*.



Yellow-browed Tit *Sylviparus modestus* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Very small, with slight crest and rather stubby bill. Has olive-green upperparts, yellowish eye-ring, fine yellow supercilium, and yellowish-buff underparts. From Fire-capped Tit by stouter bill, crested appearance, rather uniform wings with less distinct (olive-buff) greater-covert bar, and lack of pale rump or distinct pale tertial fringes. In W Himalayas (*simlaensis*) has brighter yellowish-olive upperparts and yellowish underparts compared with nominate of C and E Himalayas. **Voice** Sharp, very high-pitched, well-spaced *tis* notes (single or *tis-tis-tis*), also combined with rapid series of very high-pitched thin *si* notes, *tis-tis-tis-sisisisisi*. **HH** Broadleaved forest, favours oaks.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aemodius
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Grey-crested Tit
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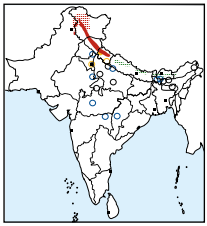
Yellow-browed Tit

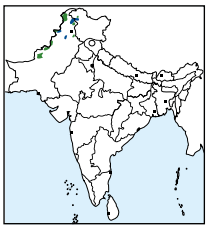
White-crowned Penduline Tit *Remiz coronatus* 10 cm

Winter visitor to Pakistan and Punjab, India. **ID** Male has blackish mask and variable nape band, whitish crown and collar, and chestnut band across mantle. Nape band absent in fresh plumage; crown largely black in worn plumage. Female and first-year male are duller and paler with pale grey crown and collar, and mask is browner and barely extends across nape Juvenile has brownish-buff upperparts and buffish underparts, and lacks adult's dark mask and chestnut band across mantle; distinctive features are dark cinnamon panel across greater coverts, with buffish-white tips forming wing-bar. **Voice** Thin high-pitched *tsee, tseeuh* or repeated *tee-tsee-tsee*. **HH** Reedbeds, acacia trees in riverine forest and irrigated forest plantations.



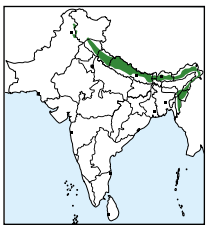
Fire-capped Tit *Cephalopyrus flammiceps* 10 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; resident from Nepal eastwards; winters in C and NE India. **ID** Flowerpecker-like, with greenish upperparts and yellowish to whitish underparts. Lacks crest, has sharply pointed bill. Male br. has bright orange forecrown, chin and throat, and golden-yellow breast. Female br. has yellowish forecrown and olive-yellow throat and breast. Juvenile duller with pale grey underparts (no trace of yellow). In E (*olivaceus*) upperparts darker olive-green than nominate (illustrated) of W and C Himalayas; orange restricted to forehead and centre of throat, breast greener on breeding male. **Voice** Call a high-pitched *tsit, tsit* or soft *whitoo-whitoo*; song a series of high-pitched notes. **HH** Temperate broadleaved or mixed forest.



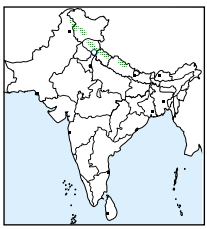
White-cheeked Tit *Aegithalos leucogenys* 11 cm

Resident. Baluchistan and W Himalayas. **ID** Adult best told by a combination of black bib and throat, narrow dark mask, pronounced white cheeks, cinnamon crown, yellowish iris, and grey-brown mantle. Juvenile has buffish-white throat and streaking on breast; from adult and juvenile White-throated Tit by narrower dark mask and uniform cinnamon-buff forehead and crown (White-throated has white forehead). **Voice** Quiet, high-pitched contact calls; song includes bubbling *ti-ti-tsup*, sunbird-like *sip-sip* and seesawing *we-ti... we-ti*. **HH** Prefers open scrub forest, also tamarisk bushes along rivers. **AN** White-cheeked Bushtit.



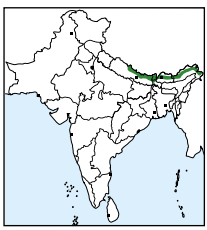
Black-throated Tit *Aegithalos concinnus* 10.5 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Adult best told by combination of rufous crown, white chin and black throat, and grey mantle. Juvenile has white throat and indistinct black-spotted breast-band. Juvenile is possibly confusable with White-throated, but lacks white forehead and has narrower and clearly defined black mask, yellow iris, and paler buff breast and belly. In NE, south of the Brahmaputra R (*manipurensis*) has paler rufous-cinnamon crown, indistinct white supercilium (mixed with black), and white breast-band which separates black throat from chestnut breast and flanks. **Voice** Includes a churring *trrrt trrrt* and a rapid, low-pitched twittering *tir-ir-ir-ir-ir;* alarm is a drier *tzit-tzit-tzit*. **HH** Broadleaved, mixed broadleaved/coniferous forest and secondary growth.



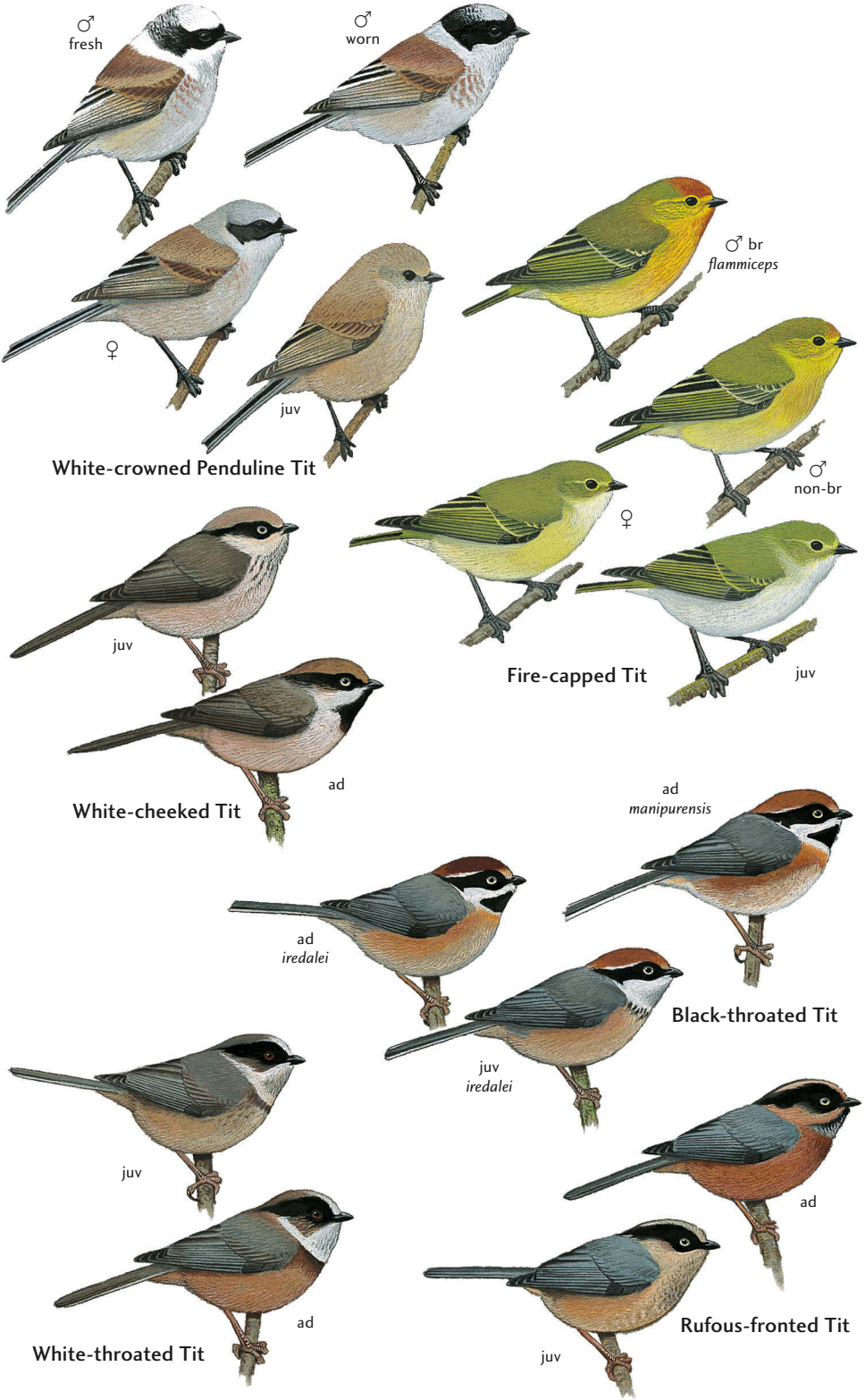
White-throated Tit *Aegithalos niveogularis* 11 cm

Resident. W Himalayas. **ID** Adult best told by combination of white forehead and forecrown, whitish throat, and dark iris. Has diffuse blackish mask and cinnamon underparts, with darker breast-band. Juvenile has dusky throat, more prominent breast-band, and paler lower breast and belly. **Voice** Song is a rapid, chattering *tweet-tweet* interspersed with high-pitched *tsi-tsi* notes and short warbles; calls include a frequently uttered *t-r-r-r-r-t*. **HH** Bushes in mixed birch/coniferous forest and in deciduous forest, also high-altitude shrub. **AN** White-throated Bushtit.



Rufous-fronted Tit *Aegithalos iouschistos* 11 cm

Resident. C and E Himalayas. **ID** Adult from other *Aegithalos* tits by combination of broad black mask, rufous-buff forehead and centre of crown, rufous-buff cheeks and deeper cinnamon-rufous underparts, and silvery-white bib bordered by blackish chin and sides to throat. Iris is yellow (brown in White-throated). Juvenile is similar to adult, but crown-stripe, cheeks and underparts are paler buff. **Voice** Variety of feeble purrs, mellow *tup* notes and squeaky notes similar to Black-throated calls and continuously uttered from feeding flocks. **HH** Broadleaved, coniferous and mixed broadleaved/coniferous forest. **AN** Rufous-fronted Bushtit.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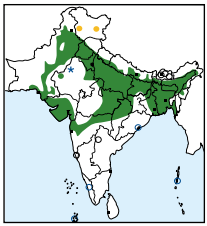
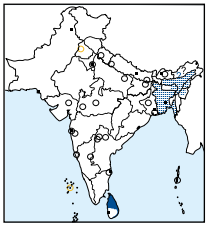


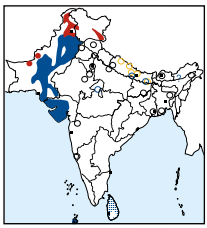
Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola* 12 cm

Resident. Mainly N and C subcontinent, also reported in S subcontinent. **ID** Has pale brownish-grey throat and breast, merging into dingy white rest of underparts. On some, throat is paler than breast, and may show suggestion of breast-band. Underwing darker than on Sand and Pale Martins, flight weaker and more fluttering, and has shallower indent to tail (although note variation in Pale). Has slightly darker, richer brown upperparts than Pale, with paler rump. Juvenile has rufous fringes to upperparts (especially tertials and rump/uppertail-coverts), and throat and breast are paler and washed with pinkish-buff. **HH** Around rivers streams and lakes. **AN** Brown-throated Martin.



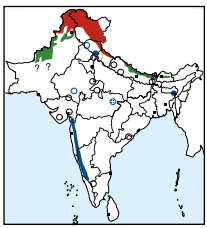
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia* 13 cm

Status in region uncertain as range confused with that of Pale. **ID** Adult from Plain by white throat and half-collar, and by brown breast-band which is generally well defined against whitish underparts. In addition, appears stockier and more purposeful in flight, and has a more prominently forked tail. Very similar to Pale, but upperparts are darker brown, the breast-band is dark and clearly defined, the throat is white and clearly demarcated from the dark brown ear-coverts, and the tail-fork is deeper. Juvenile has buff fringes to upperparts and buff tinge to throat, and breast-band can be less clearly defined. **HH** Around large waterbodies; in summer, around rivers and streams.



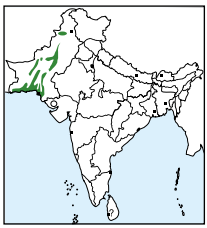
Pale Martin *Riparia diluta* 13 cm

Probably resident. Pakistan east to W Uttar Pradesh. Mainly winters in Pakistan, NW India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Very similar to Sand Martin, but upperparts are paler and greyer, the breast-band is less clearly defined, the throat is greyish-white and grades into the pale greyish-brown ear-coverts, and the tail-fork is shallower. Juvenile has brownish throat recalling Plain, but with stronger contrast between breast and belly, and lacks pinkish buff wash across breast of juvenile Plain. There is confusing subspecies variation; compared with nominate (wintering in W), resident *indica* is smaller and with very shallow tail fork, and wintering *tibetana* comparatively large and as dark as Sand (although lacks prominent breast band). **HH** Around large waterbodies.



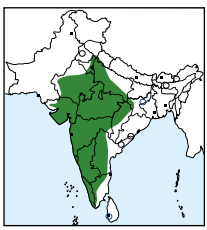
Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* 15 cm

Resident. Breeds in Pakistan hills and Himalayas; winters mainly in Western Ghats. **ID** Larger and darker than Rock. Upperparts and underwing-coverts darker brown, and has dusky throat, dusky brown flanks and vent, and more distinct pale fringes to undertail-coverts; blackish underwing-coverts contrast more with rest of underwing. From Dusky Crag by larger size, paler brown upperparts, and paler underparts with throat and breast noticeably paler than belly and vent. Further, underwing appears strongly two-toned compared with that of Dusky. Juvenile has buff to rufous fringes to upperparts; compared with adult, underparts are generally warmer, washed with buff or rufous, and chin/throat are less distinctly marked. **HH** Rocky cliffs and gorges. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hirundo*.



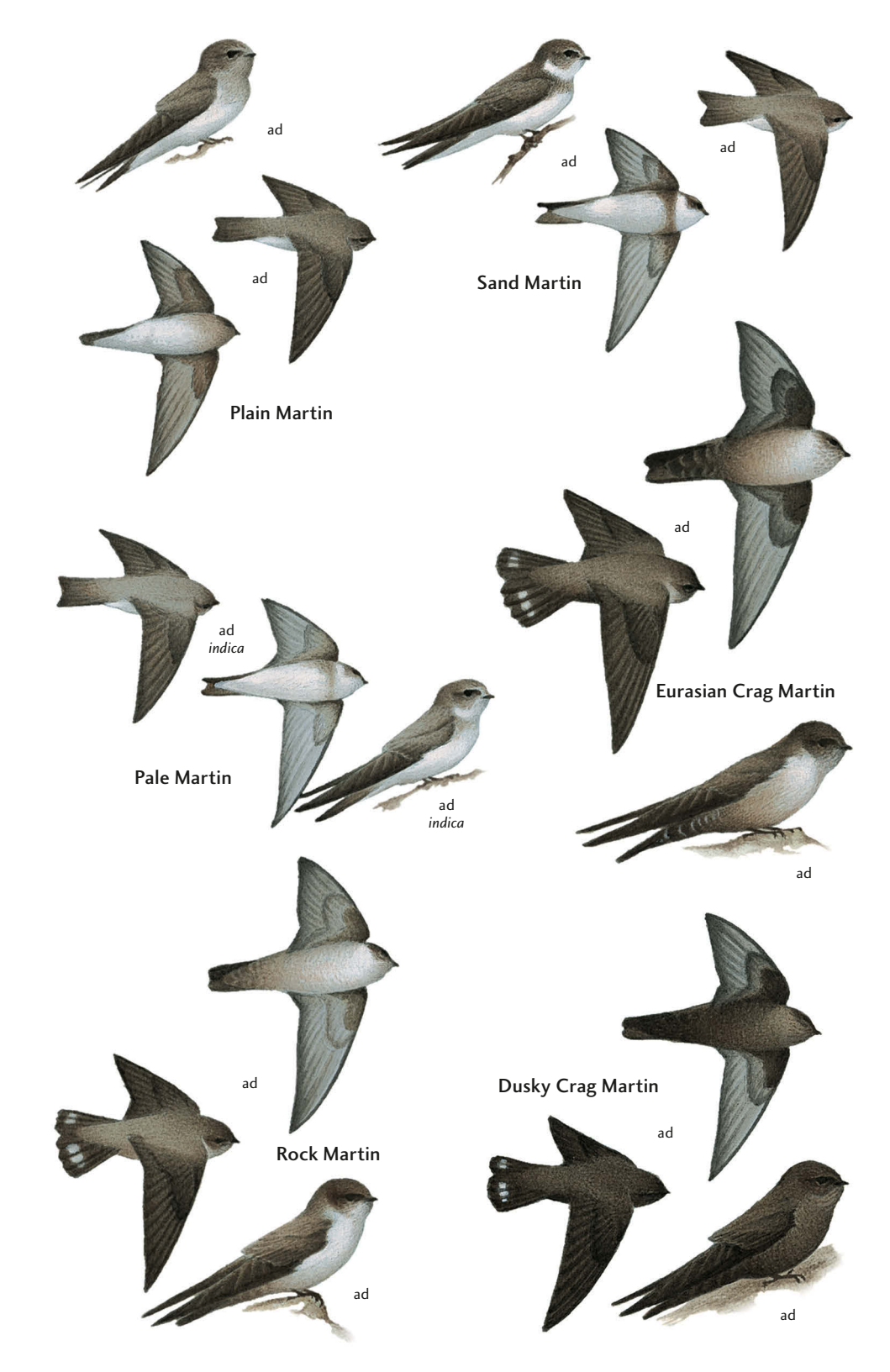
Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* 13 cm

Resident. C and S Pakistan. **ID** Very similar to Eurasian, but is smaller, less robust and paler. Specifically, has dark lores and patch around eye, unmarked buffish-white throat, paler sandy-grey vent and undertail-coverts, and paler underwing-coverts which do not contrast so strongly with rest of underwing. Upperparts are a paler sandy-grey (much less brown), and rump can appear especially pale. Juvenile has pale fringes to upperparts, especially tertials and uppertail-coverts. **HH** Rocky gorges and cliffs in arid hills. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hirundo*.



Dusky Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne concolor* 13 cm

Resident. Mainly N and peninsular India. **ID** Similar to Eurasian, but is smaller and more slightly built, and much darker and more uniformly coloured. Upperparts and underparts are darker brown, with breast and belly not noticeably paler than vent. Throat is a slightly warmer and paler buff-brown, with indistinct darker brown streaking. Underwing also appears more uniform. **HH** Hilly and mountain areas with cliffs, gorges and caves; also in lowland areas around ancient forts and old buildings in towns and cities. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hirundo*.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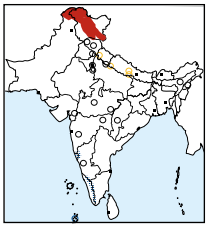
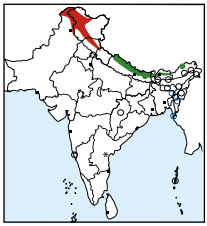


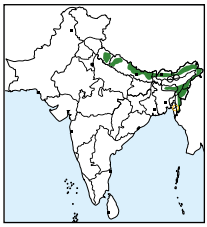
Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum* 13 cm

Summer visitor to W Himalayas; mainly passage migrant elsewhere. **ID** Adult told from Asian House Martin by combination of whiter underparts, longer and more deeply forked tail, and paler underwing-coverts. Juvenile has browner (less glossy) upperparts, is rather dingy underneath with brownish centres to some feathers of vent and undertail-coverts, whitish tips to tertials, and has shallower tail-fork (and is very similar to Asian). **Voice** Song is a soft twittering; flight call is a rolling scratchy *prrit-prrit*. **HH** Gregarious all year, hunts in scattered parties, often with other hirundines. Mountain valleys with suitable cliffs and gorges, also close to terraced cultivation and villages. **AN** Northern House Martin.



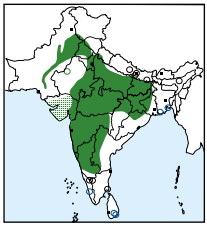
Asian House Martin *Delichon dasypus* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Adult is very similar to Common House Martin and best distinguished by uniform pale dusky grey-brown wash to underparts, shallower fork to shorter tail (with tail appearing almost square-ended when spread), and darker underwing with dark grey coverts concolorous with underside of flight feathers. Most adult Asian have variable dusky brown centres to undertail-coverts, which are lacking on adult Common House Martin but present on juvenile of that species. Rump patch often looks smaller, and dirty white compared with Common. Juvenile has browner upperparts, stronger dusky wash to underparts, broad white tips to tertials, and squarer-shaped tail. **Voice** Similar to Common's. **HH** Habits very similar to Common House Martin's. High alpine slopes, grassy hill slopes with cliffs, around mountain villages and over forest.



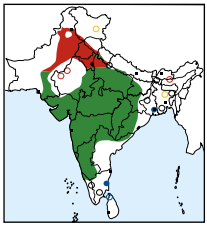
Nepal House Martin *Delichon nipalense* 13 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Smaller and more compact than Common and Asian, with almost square-cut tail. Underwing-coverts and undertail-coverts are black contrasting sharply with white underparts. Extent of black on throat varies, with only chin black in W Himalayas and SE of range; in C and E Himalayas has variably mottled blackish throat, giving rise to dark-headed appearance. Juvenile is duller and browner on upperparts, and has buffish wash to underparts. **Voice** Call is a high-pitched *chi-i*. **HH** Over forest, river valleys, mountain ridges with cliffs, forest, and around villages.



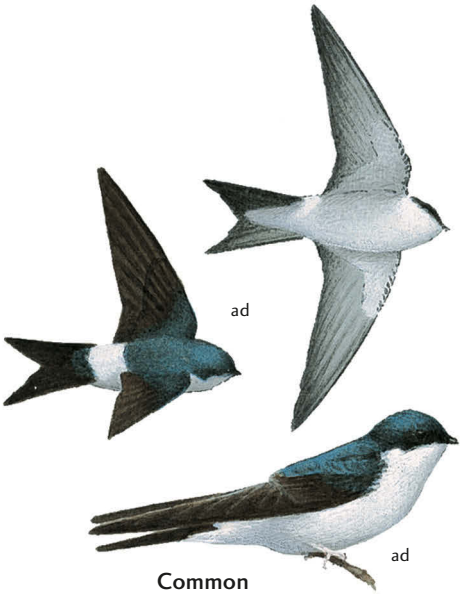
Streak-throated Swallow *Petrochelidon fluvicola* 11 cm

Resident. Indus plains; widespread in India. **ID** A small, compact swallow with slight fork to long broad tail and a weak and fluttering flight. Adult from other swallows by combination of lightly streaked chestnut crown and nape, dirty off-white underparts (with brown streaking on chin, throat and breast), narrow white streaks on mantle, and brownish rump. Juvenile has duller, browner crown, and brown-toned mantle and wings, with buff fringes (most obvious on scapulars and tertials). From juvenile Plain Martin by larger size, chestnut cast to crown, blue gloss to mantle, and heavily streaked throat. Streaked throat is best distinction from juvenile Wire-tailed Swallow. **Voice** A twittering *chirp* and a sharp *trr trr* in flight. **HH** Cultivation and open country near water: rivers, canals, reservoirs and lakes. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hirundo*.

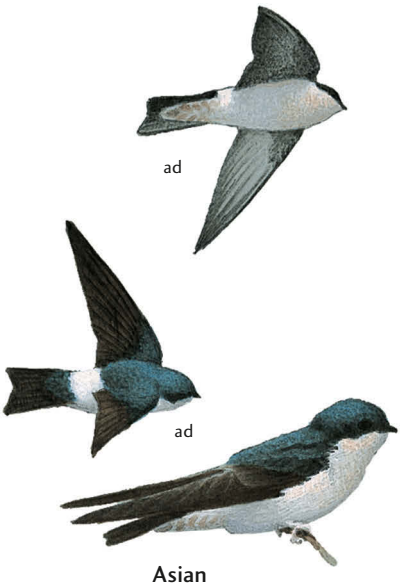


Wire-tailed Swallow *Hirundo smithii* 14 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of the NW, NE and SE subcontinent. **ID** From Barn Swallow by chestnut crown, brighter blue upperparts, glistening white underparts, and fine filamentous projections to outer tail feathers. White underwing-coverts contrast more strongly with dark underside of flight feathers. Can have pinkish or buffish wash to breast. Wire-like tail-streamers are frequently broken, entirely lost, or can be difficult to see, tail then appearing square-ended. Juvenile has brownish cast to blue upperparts and dull brownish crown. Possibly confusable with Streak-throated, but is larger and proportionately longer-winged/shorter-tailed, and has whiter, unstreaked underparts and underwing-coverts. White throat and breast and squarer tail help separate it from juvenile Barn Swallow. **Voice** A twittering song; calls include a double *chirrik-weet*, a *chit-chit* contact call and a *chichip chichip* alarm call. **HH** Open country and cultivation near lakes, rivers and canals; also wet paddy-fields in summer.

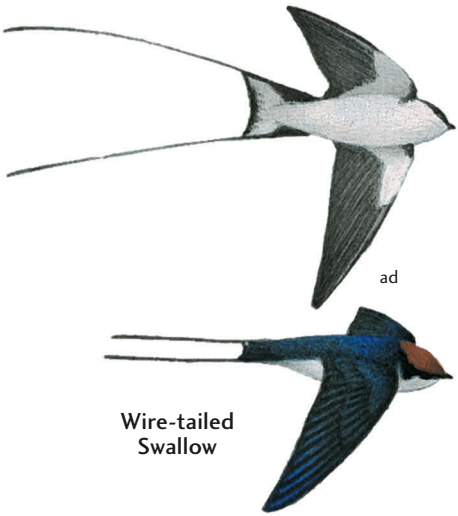


Common
House Martin

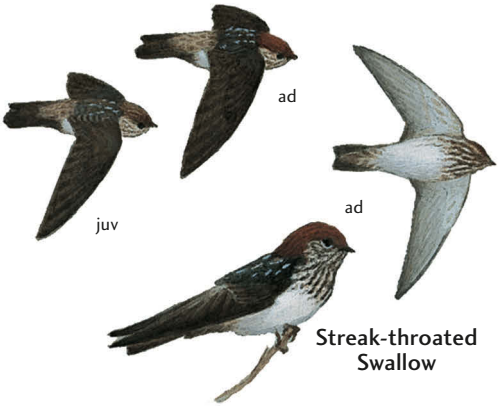


Asian
House Martin

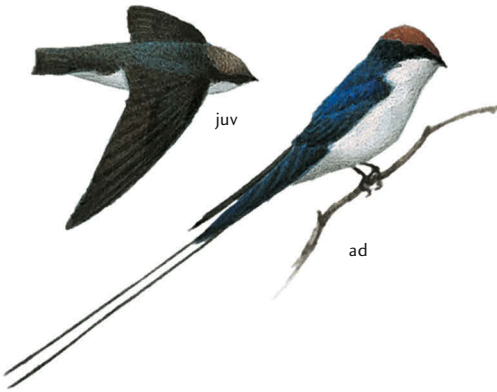
Nepal
House Martin

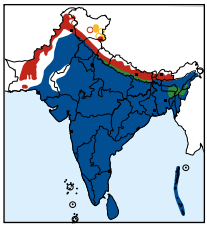


Wire-tailed
Swallow



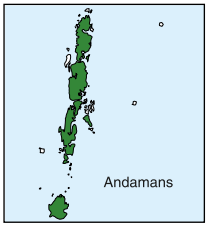
Streak-throated
Swallow





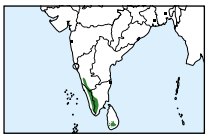
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* 18 cm

Breeds in Pakistan hills, Himalayas and NE India; widespread farther south in winter. **ID** Adult has bright red forehead and throat, blue-black breast-band and upperparts, and long tail-streamers. Underparts vary from white to rufous. Immature has duller orange forehead and throat, breast-band is browner and less well defined, upperparts are duller, and has shorter tail-streamers. *H. r. tytleri*, a winter visitor to NE subcontinent, has rufous underparts and narrower breast-band. **Voice** Song a varied twittering; call a clear *vit vit*,sharp *vheet vheet* when alarmed. **HH** Swift and agile with frequent banks and turns. Gregarious in non-breeding season, when often congregates on telegraph wires. Cultivation, lakes and rivers in open country; often near water in winter.



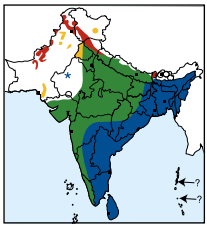
Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* 13 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Told from Barn by more extensive rufous on throat, lack of breast-band, dingy underparts and underwing-coverts, and blackish undertail-coverts with whitish fringes; lacks tail-streamers. Upperparts have purplish gloss and many have fine dark streaking on underparts. Juvenile has browner (less glossy) upperparts, with very little rufous on forehead, and has paler rufous throat. **Voice** Song is a mix of musical and harsh notes. Calls include a harsh staccato note. **HH** Habits similar to Barn, less dashing in flight. Open country along coasts and rivers.



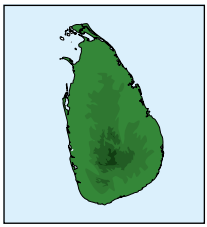
Hill Swallow *Hirundo* (*tahitica*) *domicola* 12.5 cm

Resident in S Western Ghats and Sri Lanka hill zone, wandering to foothills. **ID** As Pacific but smaller with longer-looking tail, and with metallic green gloss to upperparts (more purplish-blue in Pacific). **Voice** Songs includes a pleasant twittering; calls include an abrupt, high-pitched *chit*. **HH** Much less gregarious than Barn and often perches on telegraph wires. Grassy hills around tea and coffee plantations; around bungalows and factory sheds.



Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica* 16–17 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** From Barn in having rufous-orange sides of neck (creating complete collar and dark-capped appearance in some subspecies), rufous-orange rump, finely streaked buffish-white underparts, and black undertail-coverts. Compared with Barn, is bulkier and has slower and more buoyant flight, gliding strongly and for prolonged periods. Juvenile has duller upperparts, paler neck sides (and collar) and rump, buff tips to tertials, and shorter tail-streamers. Considerable racial variation, differing mainly in strength of streaking on and colour of underparts and rump, and prominence of collar. *C. d. nipalensis*, which breeds in Himalayas, is one of the most heavily streaked. **Voice** Distinctive *treep* call and twittering song. **HH** Gathers in huge numbers in winter when seen in close-packed flocks on wires or in reedbeds. Summers in upland cultivation and over open grassy hill slopes; rocky gorges and cliffs in Baluchistan. Winters open scrub, cultivation and forest clearings. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hirundo.*

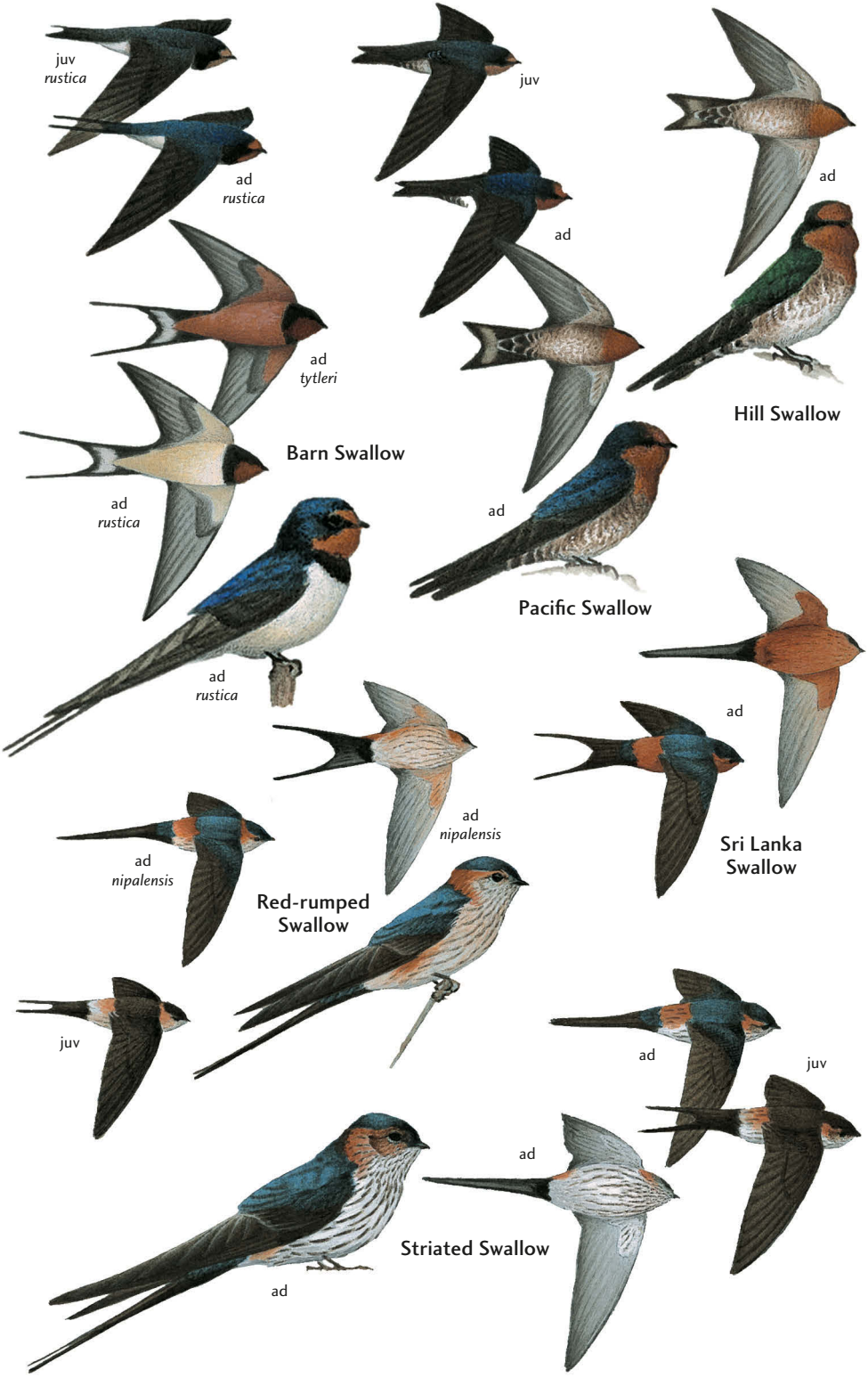


Sri Lanka Swallow *Cecropis* (*daurica*) *hyperythra* 14–15 cm

Resident in lowlands and lower hills of Sri Lanka. **ID** Very distinct from Red-rumped, by deep chestnut underparts, non-existent or poorly defined chestnut collar, and dark chestnut rump. **Voice** Calls include a slow rising *chueet* and a musical, whistled drawn-out *pfweeouu*. **HH** Usually keeps in pairs, sometimes in small flocks. Paddy-fields, open fields and hillsides and lightly wooded areas. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hirundo*.

Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata* 19 cm

Resident NE Indian hills and Bangladesh. **ID** From Red-rumped of the subspecies *nipalensis* (resident) and *japonica* (winter visitor), which both have well-streaked underparts, by larger size, stronger (broader and blacker) streaking on underparts and sides of neck, darker rufous face, non-existent or sometimes poorly defined rufous collar, and broader and blacker shaft streaking on rump. Collar can, however, be incomplete in above-mentioned subspecies of Red-rumped. Juvenile is duller on upperparts, and has paler rump, shorter tail-streamers, broader and browner (and more diffuse) streaking below, and buff fringes to coverts and tertials. **Voice** Song is a soft twittering; calls include a *pin* or long drawn-out *quitsch* and *chi-chi-chi* when alarmed. **HH** Habits similar to Red-rumped's. Steep cliffs in open hilly areas and forest clearings. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hirundo.*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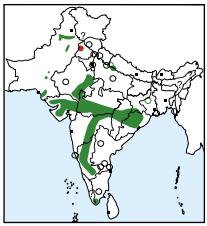
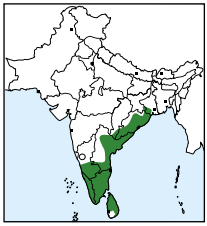


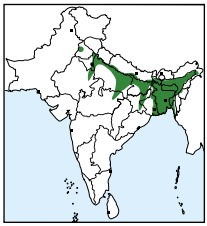
Singing Bushlark *Mirafra cantillans* 14 cm

Resident. Plains and foothills in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. **ID** Stocky, stout-billed, broad-winged lark with slight crest. Like other *Mirafra* larks shows rufous on wing, although this is less prominent than on other species. From Indian and Jerdon's Bushlarks by comparatively uniform brownish-buff ear-coverts, weaker and less extensive spotting on breast, and longer tail with whitish outer tail feathers; upperparts are generally more diffusely streaked, and colder grey-brown in coloration; throat is whiter than rest of underparts, and often shows diffuse brownish- to rufous-buff breast-band. Compared with other *Mirafra larks*, has more varied song and distinctive display flight, towering high on winnowing or flickering wings. Also sings when perched. Bill is distinctly shorter and stouter than Oriental Skylark, and has shorter crest. **Voice** Song is sweet and full, with much mimicry. **HH** Open dry scrub, fallow cultivation and grassland.



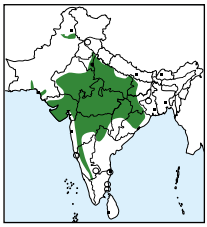
Jerdon's Bushlark *Mirafra affinis* 14 cm

Resident. Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Similar to Singing and Indian, but is larger and stockier, with larger and longer bill and shorter tail (especially compared with Singing). Has heavily spotted breast, buffish wash to underparts, buffish lores, prominent rufous on wing, rufous-buff outer webs to outer tail feathers, rufous-buff upperparts with prominent dark streaks, and dark-centered coverts and tertials. **Voice** Song is a dry metallic rattle delivered from a perch or during short song flight; call is a short high-pitched trill. **HH** Dry open areas with bushes and trees.



Bengal Bushlark *Mirafra assamica* 15 cm

Resident. Mainly plains and plateaux of N subcontinent. **ID** From Indian and Jerdon's by diffusely streaked brownish-grey upperparts, buffish supercilium, and dirty rufous underparts (with paler throat and greyish flanks). Rufous wing panel is brighter and more prominent than in other *Mirafra* larks. **Voice** Song is a repetition of a series of thin, high-pitched disyllabic notes, usually delivered in prolonged song flight; call is a series of thin, high-pitched short notes. **HH** Open grassy areas, often slightly wet ground.

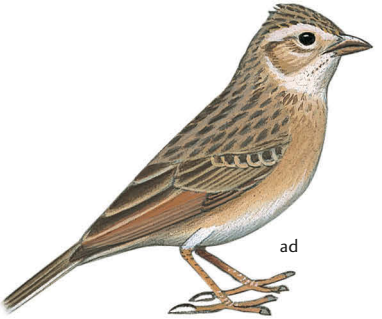


Indian Bushlark *Mirafra erythroptera* 14 cm

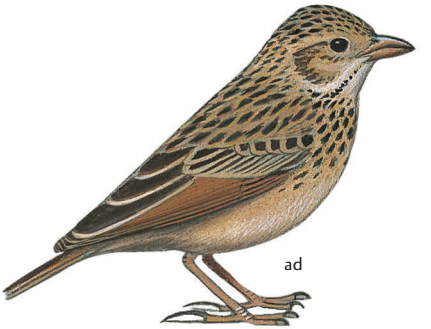
Resident. Plains and plateaux in Pakistan and India; unrecorded in NE subcontinent. **ID** From Singing by more prominent spotting on ear-coverts and malar region (with more pronounced dark border to ear-coverts), more pronounced dark spotting on breast, more extensive rufous on wing (very prominent in flight), and rufous-buff outer webs to outer tail feathers. Upperparts are generally more heavily streaked, and warmer sandy-buff to rufous-buff in coloration, with rufous cast to crown often apparent; underparts tend to be more uniform whitish to buffish-white than on Singing. From Jerdon's by smaller and shorter bill, smaller size, slightly longer tail, more prominent white supercilium (especially in front of eye), whiter underparts, more rufous on wing, paler centres to tertials and coverts, and shorter hind claw. *M. e. sindiana* of NW subcontinent has sandy-buff coloration to upperparts, whereas the more southerly and easterly *M. e. erythroptera* is more rufous-buff above. **Voice** Song is a *tit-tit-tit*, followed by long, drawn-out *tsweeeih-tsweeeih-tsweeeih*. **HH** Stony scrub and fallow cultivation in open plains and plateaux; in Pakistan and NW India found among *Euphorbia* clumps in low hills and barren clay flats.

Greater Hoopoe Lark *Alaemon alaudipes* 19 cm

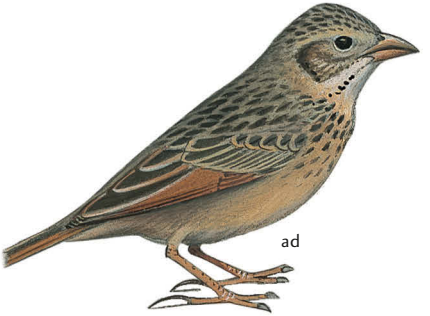
Resident. Pakistan and Rann of Kutch. **ID** Very distinctive, with long slightly downcurved bill and long legs. Has prominent white supercilium, black eye-stripe and moustachial stripe, indistinct black malar stripe, black-spotted breast, and sandy grey-brown upperparts. In flight, white at base and tips of black primaries and secondaries shows as prominent banding across wings, and has black tail with grey centre and white sides. Female is smaller than male, with shorter bill and poorly defined head pattern and breast spotting. Juvenile has shorter, straighter bill, with whitish fringes and dark grey subterminal crescents to feathers of upperparts. **Voice** Song is a series of flute-like whistles. **HH** Extensive areas of desert, especially low sand dunes and barren clay flats.



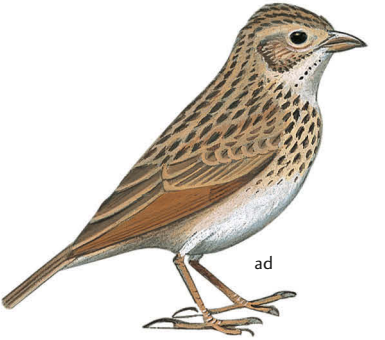
Singing Bushlark



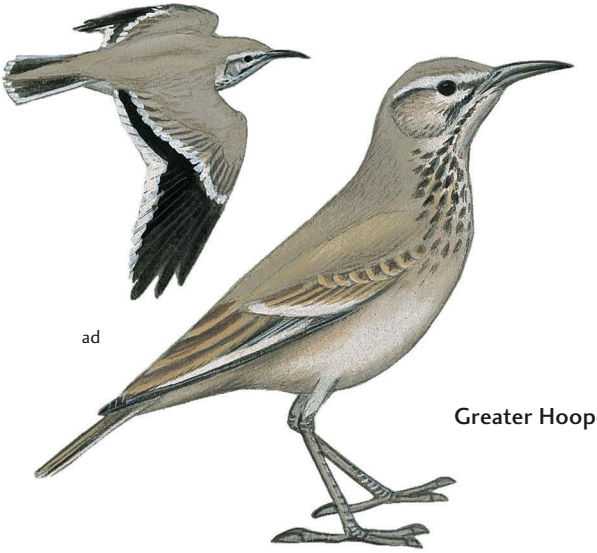
Jerdon's Bushlark



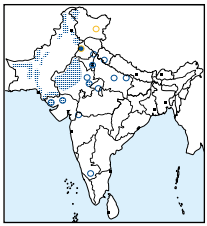
Bengal Bushlark



Indian Bushlark

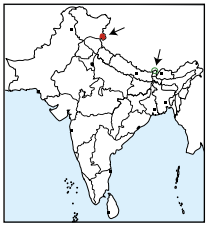


Greater Hoopoe Lark



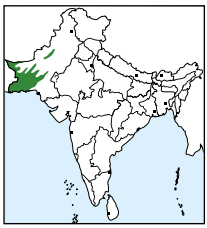
Bimaculated Lark *Melanocorypha bimaculata* 17 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan and N and NW India. **ID** Large, stout-billed and stocky lark with long, broad-based wings and comparatively short tail. Has prominent white supercilium and eye-ring, black patch on side of breast, dark grey underwing lacking white trailing edge, and whitish tip to tail. **Voice** Utters a guttural *prrp* or *chirp*. **HH** Highly gregarious on its wintering grounds, sometimes hundreds together. Runs when feeding, picking up insects from the ground, also digs for pupae. Generally has a fairly upright stance, but will hide by squatting and freezing. Semi-desert, paddy stubbles, fallow fields, edges of lakes and dry coastal mudflats.



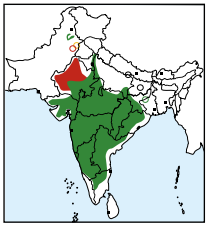
Tibetan Lark *Melanocorypha maxima* 21 cm

Resident? Ladakh and Sikkim, India. **ID** Has black patch on side of breast, recalling Bimaculated, but is much larger than that species, with rather small-headed, long-necked appearance, and has much longer and thinner bill. Has rather uniform head, lacking prominent supercilium or eye-stripe (crown and nape are diffusely streaked), and crown, ear-coverts and rump can be distinctly rufous. Breast is diffusely spotted and/or washed with grey. Has white trailing edge to secondaries, and white sides and broad white tip to outer tail feathers. Juvenile has dark blackish-brown upperparts with whitish fringes, and yellowish underparts with diffuse dark spotting on breast. **Voice** Song is a disjointed, staccato, hiccupping stutter, also includes some pleasant warbled phrases and is rich in mimicry. Call is a coarse, rippled *tchui-lip*, very similar to that of Bimaculated. **HH** Male sings from the top of a grassy hump, twitching open his wings excitedly. Marshes around high-altitude lakes and bogs.



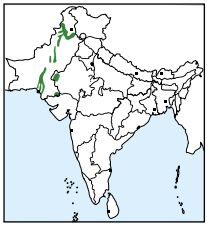
Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura* 15 cm

Resident. Baluchistan and SW Pakistan. **ID** Similar to Desert Lark and best told by blackish terminal bar to rufous tail. Also tertials are orangey-buff (colder grey-brown on Desert) and contrast more markedly with blackish primaries. Further, is smaller and stockier than Desert, with more upright stance, and has shorter and finer bill (which is mainly pinkish-horn; dark culmen and tip, with pale yellow lower mandible in Desert). Juvenile is similar to adult, although looks scruffier, and paler, more creamy-coloured, with a less distinct tail-bar. **Voice** Song comprises quiet fluty notes, with louder, mournful *see-oo-lee* like a creaking door; flight call and some contact calls a *twer*. **HH** Found in pairs or scattered flocks. Runs quickly and often prefers to escape this way. Frequently adopts an upright posture on the ground. Low stony hills and barren gravelly plains.



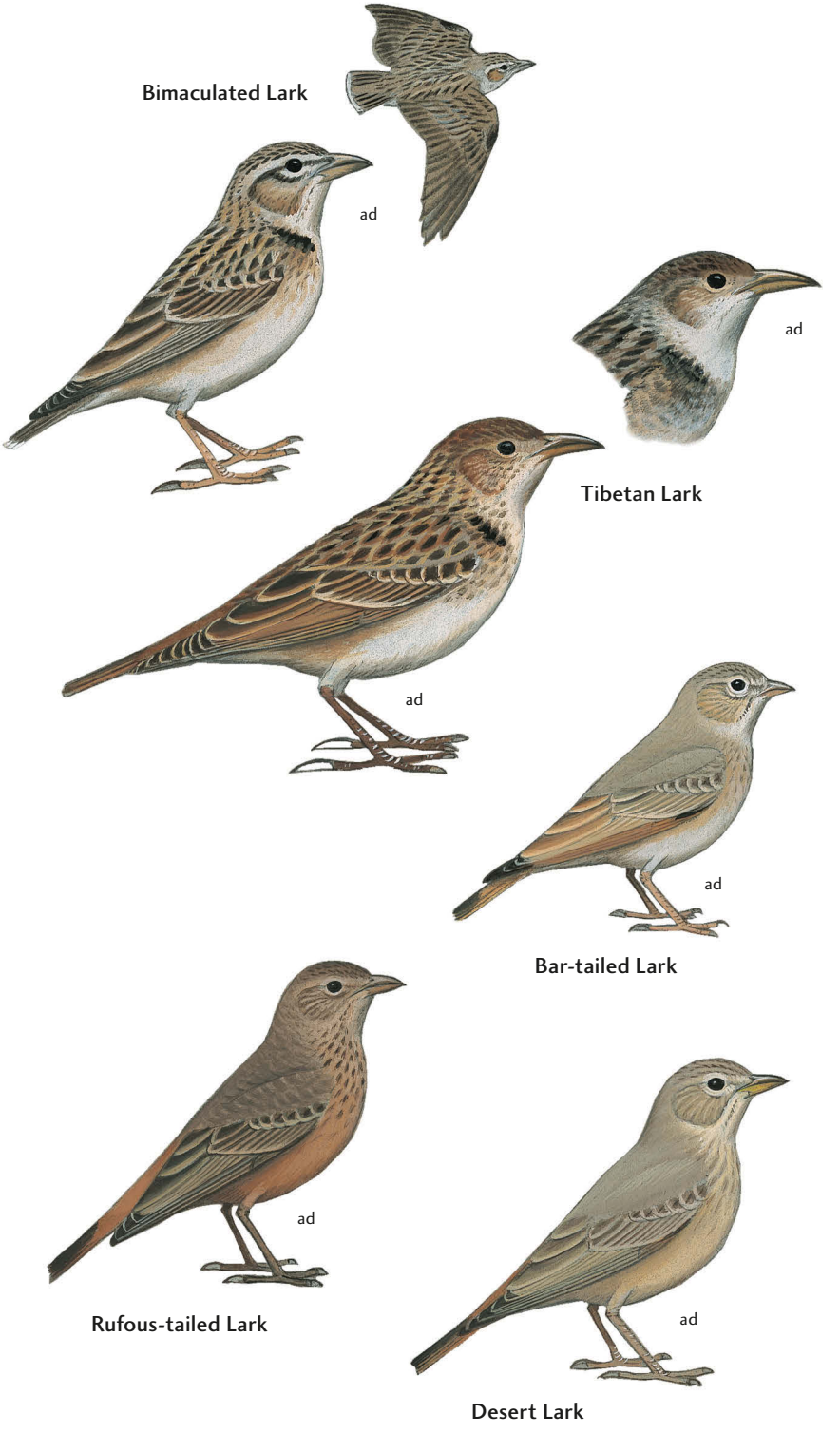
Rufous-tailed Lark *Ammomanes phoenicura* 16 cm

Resident. Plains in N Pakistan, S Nepal and India. **ID** From Desert by much darker grey-brown upperparts, rufous-orange underparts and underwing-coverts, and more prominent dark spotting/streaking on throat and breast. Has rufous-orange uppertail-coverts, and rufous-orange tail has broad and well-defined dark terminal bar. **Voice** Song comprises sweet *tee-hoo* phrases with low-pitched husky whistles and chirrups. **HH** Habits similar to Bar-tailed's. Runs about in zigzags when feeding. Cultivation, fallow and ploughed fields, stubbles and open country with scattered bushes and stony outcrops.



Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti* 17 cm

Resident. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** From Rufous-tailed by much paler upperparts, buffish to greyish-white underparts (with weak breast streaking), and grey-brown tail with rufous restricted to sides and lacking dark tail-bar. Tail coloration and absence of dark tail bar are best features from similar Bar-tailed (which see for further differences). Juvenile has buff-brown upperparts with faint buff fringes, and tail lacks blackish centre. **Voice** Song comprises well-spaced, rising and falling, flute-like whistles, *pee-pyooh, peef-poof*, interspersed with warbling phrases; call is a *cuu* or *puu*. **HH** Usually progresses on the ground with a fast walk; runs occasionally. Searches busily for seeds and insects among stones. Well camouflaged on the ground, but often perches on rocks and calls, then becoming conspicuous. Low, very arid rocky foothills, also fallow land in desert-canal cultivation.


Bimaculated Lark
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Bar-tailed Lark
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Rufous-tailed Lark
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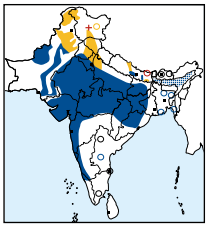
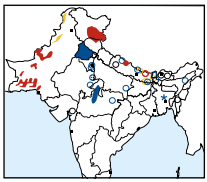
Desert Lark



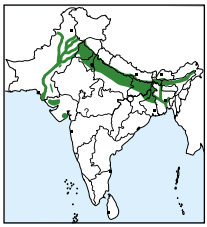
Greater Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla* 14 cm

Widespread winter visitor; unrecorded in Sri Lanka and parts of India. **ID** Stouter bill than Hume's, with more prominent supercilium and eye-stripe, warmer coloration to upperparts with more prominent streaking, prominent dark centres to median coverts, warmer-coloured breast often with well-defined streaking, and different call. Dark breast-side patches often apparent, as with Hume's Short-toed Lark. Two subspecies winter in the subcontinent: *C. b. dukhunensis* (mainly S and E), which is more easily separated from other small larks, has warm sandy-buff upperparts, variable rufous-buff breast-band, and rufous-buff ear-coverts and wash on flanks. *C. b. longipennis* (mainly NW) is slightly colder and grey-brown to grey in coloration of upperparts, and has breast washed with brownish-buff (and is more similar in coloration to Hume's). **Voice** Flight call is a dry *tchirrup* or *chichirrup*. **HH** Open stony grassland, fallow cultivation, and semi-desert.



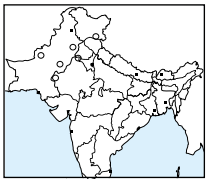
Hume's Short-toed Lark *Calandrella acutirostris* 14 cm

Summer visitor to Baluchistan and Himalayas; winters mainly in S Nepal and N India. **ID** Greyer and less heavily streaked upperparts than Greater, with pinkish uppertail-coverts. Head pattern usually less pronounced than Greater's, with rather uniform ear-coverts, dark lores (pale in Greater), and less pronounced supercilium and eye-stripe. Bill yellowish with pronounced dark culmen and tip. As Greater, dark breast-side patch usually apparent, but with greyish-buff breast-band. **Voice** Flight call is a full, rolling *tiurr;* song is a mellow, variable *tee-leu-ee-lew*. **HH** Breeds in high-altitude semi-desert and in Pakistan in lower rocky hills; winters in fallow cultivation.



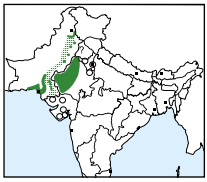
Sand Lark *Calandrella raytal* 12 cm

Resident. Widespread in N subcontinent. **ID** Small stocky lark with comparatively short tail, and rather rounded wings with distinctive, rather jerky and fluttering flight. Additional features from other *Calandrella* larks are finer bill, rather uniform sandy-grey upperparts (with streaking most prominent on crown), whitish underparts with fine sparse streaking across breast (and lacking dark patches on breast side), and prominent blackish sides to tail contrasting with white outer tail feathers and very pale rump and uppertail-coverts. Primaries extend beyond tertials on closed wing. **Voice** Call is a rolling, deep and guttural *prr... prr;* song is a series of short, rapidly delivered and repeated undulating warbling notes. **HH** Banks of lakes, rivers and tidal creeks, coastal dunes.



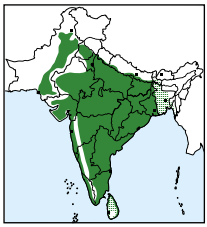
Asian Short-toed Lark *Calandrella cheleensis* 13 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan and India. **ID** From Greater and Hume's by noticeable extension of primaries beyond tertials on close wing. Bill is shorter and stouter. Has a broad gorget of well-defined streaking across breast (lacking dark patches on sides), with streaking often apparent on lower throat and flanks, more finely streaked upperparts (which are pale, sandy-buff in coloration), less striking head pattern with less prominent supercilia (which appear to join across bill) and streaked ear-coverts. Lacks prominent dark centres to median coverts (which can show as distinct dark bar on Greater). **Voice** Calls include a rattling *prrtt, prrirrick* or *chirrit*. **HH** Stony foothills.



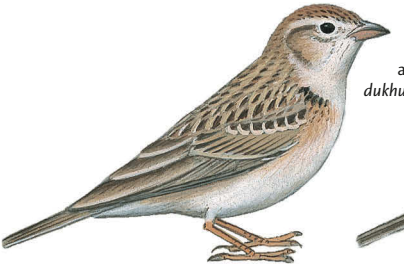
Black-crowned Sparrow Lark *Eremopterix nigriceps* 13 cm

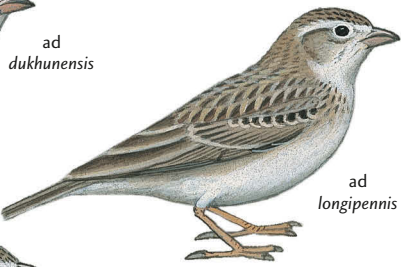
Resident. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** From Ashy-crowned by brownish-black crown and nape, with whitish forehead; nape is white on some, forming collar, with brownish-black patch on upper mantle. Upperparts are sandier than on Ashy-crowned. Female has more sandy-brown upperparts than female Ashy-crowned, with buffier breast and unstreaked belly. **Voice** Song is a short, repeated, warbled *dwee-di-ul-twee-e-h* followed by a lower pitched *d-e-e-e-e-h, de-e-e-e-h*. **HH** Sandy deserts.



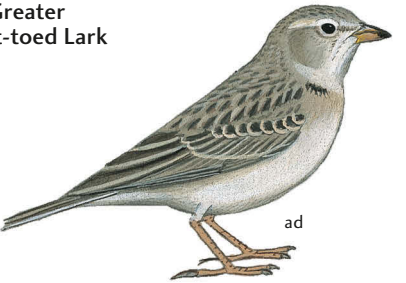
Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark *Eremopterix griseus* 12 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** From Black-crowned by grey crown and nape, contrasting with brownish-black lores and supercilium. Female has stout greyish bill, uniform head (lacking dark eye-stripe), rather uniform upperparts (with almost unstreaked mantle and scapulars), indistinct and diffuse breast streaking, and blackish underwing-coverts (latter can be difficult to see in field). From female Black-crowned by darker ear-coverts, browner upperparts, and streaked belly. Juvenile has rufous cast to upperparts and underparts, with rufous-buff fringes to upperwing-coverts and tertials. **Voice** Song is a short flute-like *tweedle-deedle-deedle*, followed by a drawn-out whistle *wheeh*. **HH** Cultivation, open dry scrub and dry tidal mudflats.





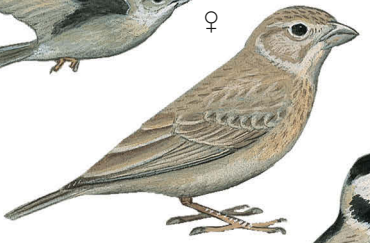
Greater Short-toed Lark



Hume's Short-toed Lark

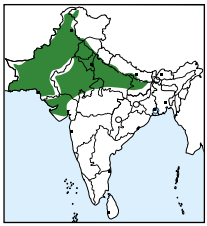
Sand Lark

Asian Short-toed Lark



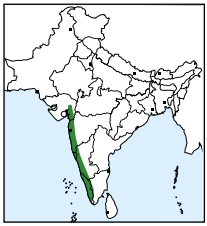
Black-crowned Sparrow Lark

Ashy-crowned Sparrow Lark



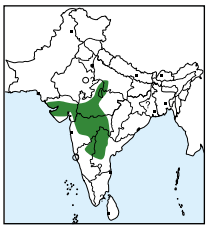
Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* 18 cm

Resident. Widespread in N subcontinent. **ID** From Oriental Skylark by larger size and erect crest, broader rounded wings, rufous-buff outer tail feathers and underwing, and different calls and song. Larger and paler than more southerly Malabar Lark, and much less heavily streaked on upperparts and breast. *G. c. magna* of NW Pakistan is warmer, more sandy-coloured on upperparts than greyer eastern subspecies. **Voice** Calls include a fluty *du-ee*; song is prolonged and complex, with much mimicry. **HH** Desert, semi-desert, dry cultivation and coastal mudflats.



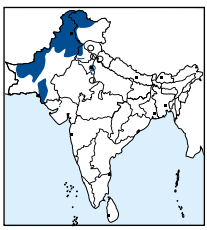
Malabar Lark *Galerida malabarica* 16 cm

Resident. Plains and hills in W peninsular India. **ID** Smaller than Crested, with stouter bill, darker and more rufescent upperparts with much stronger blackish streaking, heavily spotted breast (washed with buff or rufous-buff) and pale rufous outer tail feathers and underwing-coverts. From Sykes's Lark by larger size, much longer bill, dark rear boarder to ear-coverts (not shown), paler but more heavily streaked breast, streaked rump, and buffish-white belly and flanks. From *australis* subspecies of Oriental Skylark by stouter bill, longer crest, larger breast streaking, pale rufous (rather than buffish-white) outer tail feathers, and different call. **Voice** Call is an undulating *chew-chew-you*; song comprises melancholy and fluty notes. **HH** Cultivation, grass-covered hills and open scrub.



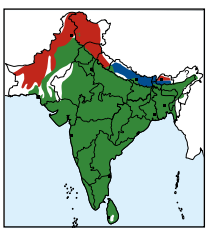
Sykes's Lark *Galerida deva* 14 cm

Resident. Mainly C India. Small lark with prominent upstanding crest. **ID** From Malabar by smaller size, stouter bill, pale rufous underparts (lacking whitish belly), finer and less extensive streaking on breast (confined to narrow band across upper breast, and almost lacking on some), and rather uniform pale rufous rump. Possibly confusable with *australis* subspecies of Oriental Skylark, but with stouter bill, longer crest, less extensive breast streaking, and pale rufous (rather than buffish-white) outer tail feathers. **Voice** Song is similar to Singing Bushlark's; calls are similar to Crested's. **HH** Stony, scrubby areas and dry cultivation.



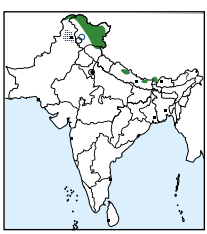
Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* 18 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan and N India. **ID** Larger than Oriental Skylark, although very similar to some in plumage, and with slight crest. Told from that species by longer tail, noticeable extension of primaries beyond tertials on closed wing (tertials almost reach primary tips on Oriental), white outer tail feathers (more buffish on Oriental), pronounced whitish trailing edge to secondaries, and proportionately shorter and stouter bill. Upperparts are paler sandy-brown (than on most subspecies of Oriental), and underparts whiter. Lacks rufous cast to ear-coverts, and the (indistinct) rufous panel on wing of Oriental. **Voice** Calls include a grating *chirriup* and liquid *trruwee*. **HH** Cultivation and grassland.



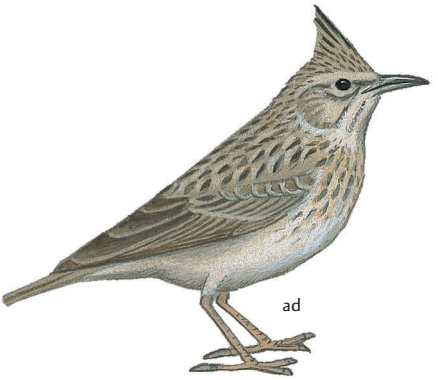
Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula* 16 cm

Widespread resident and winter visitor. **ID** Very variable in colour and prominence of streaking on upperparts and underparts. See Eurasian for differences from that species. Bill much finer than in the bushlarks. Six races in the region, varying from *A. g. inconspicua* of NW and N subcontinent, which has sandy-buff base colour to upperparts, and whitish underparts with rufous-buff wash across breast, to *A. g. australis* of W peninsula and Sri Lanka, which has warmer rufous-buff base colour to more heavily streaked upperparts, and base colour of underparts is a uniform rufous-buff. **Voice** Song comprises bubbling warbles and shorter whistling notes with much variation; call is a grating, throaty *bazz, bazz*. **HH** Grassland, cultivation and coastal mudflats.

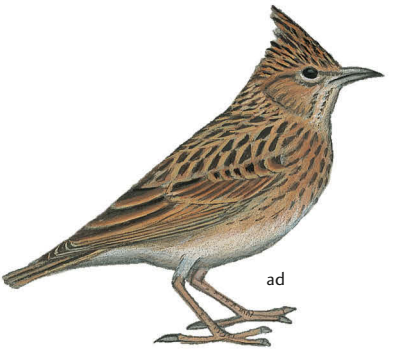


Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris* 18 cm

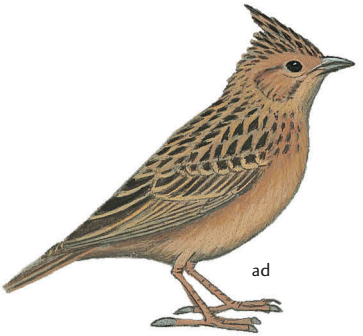
Resident. High Himalayas. **ID** Male has black-and-white head pattern, with black mask, 'horns' and band across crown. Also black breast-band and sandy upperparts with vinous cast to nape. Female is similar but mask is duller, crown and mantle are heavily streaked, and lacks vinous cast to nape. Juvenile has suggestion of dark mask, spotted (with yellowish-buff) upperparts, and underparts have pale yellowish wash. Black mask joins black of breast in *E. a. albigula* of NW subcontinent. **Voice** Song comprises *tsit-tsit-tsit* notes; followed by short warbling phrases interspersed with longer whistles; call is a quiet *tsit-tsit*. **HH** Breeds on stony ground and alpine pastures; winters in fallow cultivation, and on stony and sandy ground.



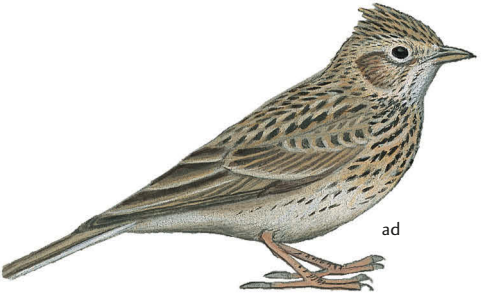
Crested Lark



Malabar Lark



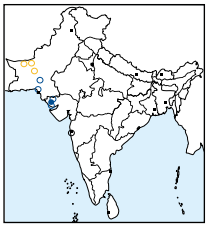
Sykes's Lark



Eurasian Skylark

Oriental Skylark

Horned Lark

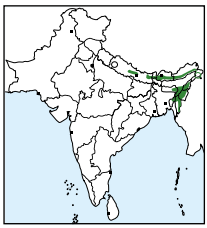


Grey Hypocolius *Hypocolius ampelinus* 25 cm

Winter visitor. S Pakistan and Gujarat. **ID** Long-tailed and rather short-winged. Often raises crown feathers, giving rise to crested appearance. Male is mainly grey, with black mask and black tip to tail. In flight, shows black primaries with prominent white tips. Female and immature are browner, and lack black mask; have well-defined creamy-white throat, less white in primaries and diffuse dark tip to tail. **Voice** A mellow liquid *tre-tur-tur*, and a descending *whee-oo*. **HH** Gregarious in winter, in flocks of up to 20 birds. Forages chiefly by hopping and clambering about within trees and bushes; sometimes descends to the ground to pick up insects. Semi-desert with scattered thorn scrub of berried bushes, around oases and date-palm groves. **AN** Hypocolius.

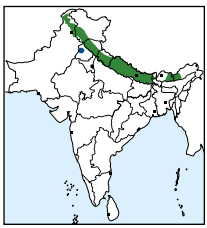
Crested Finchbill *Spizixos canifrons* 22 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Has stout, pale bill, upright crest, and dark tip to tail. Adult has blackish crest and throat, and grey forehead and ear-coverts. Juvenile has short greenish crest, diffuse head pattern and brownish breast band. **Voice** A long, dry bubbling trill *purr-purr-prruit-prruit-prruit*. **HH** Keeps in flocks in the non-breeding season. Forages from high up in trees down to bushes and undergrowth. Broadleaved forest, secondary growth and semi-cultivation.



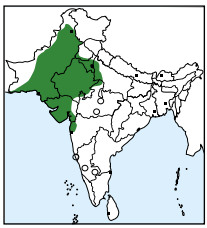
Striated Bulbul *Pycnonotus striatus* 23 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** A crested, green bulbul with bold yellowish-white streaking on underparts, and fine white streaking on crest, ear-coverts and upperparts. Has bright yellow lores, eye-ring and throat, and yellow undertail-coverts. In flight, the olive-green tail has pale yellow tips to outer feathers. Juvenile duller and less heavily streaked, and with shorter crest. **Voice** A distinctive, repeated disyllabic *chi-chirp*. **HH** Found in small flocks in the non-breeding season; less noisy than other bulbuls. Feeds on berries, also catches insects in short aerial sallies. Mainly broadleaved evergreen forest, also moist oak-rhododendron forest; deciduous forest in NE India.



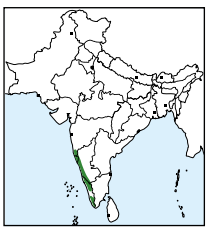
Himalayan Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucogenys* 20 cm

Resident. N Pakistan hills and Himalayas. **ID** A crested bulbul with white cheeks, brownish-grey upperparts, and yellow vent. Told from White-eared by prominent forward-pointing brown crest, brown nape, smaller white cheek-patch with black crescent at rear, and variable narrow white supercilium. Hybridises with White-eared and Red-vented (see those species for further details). **Voice** Song is a variable combination of melodious phrases, *we-did-de-dear-up, whet-what*, and *who-lik-lik-leer*; also has a *plee-plee-plee* flight call, and a *wik-wik-wik-wiker* alarm call. **HH** Habits like those of White-eared. Dry habitats: open dry scrub, hillsides with scattered raspberry and *Berberis* bushes, hedgerows, bushes around towns and villages, secondary growth.



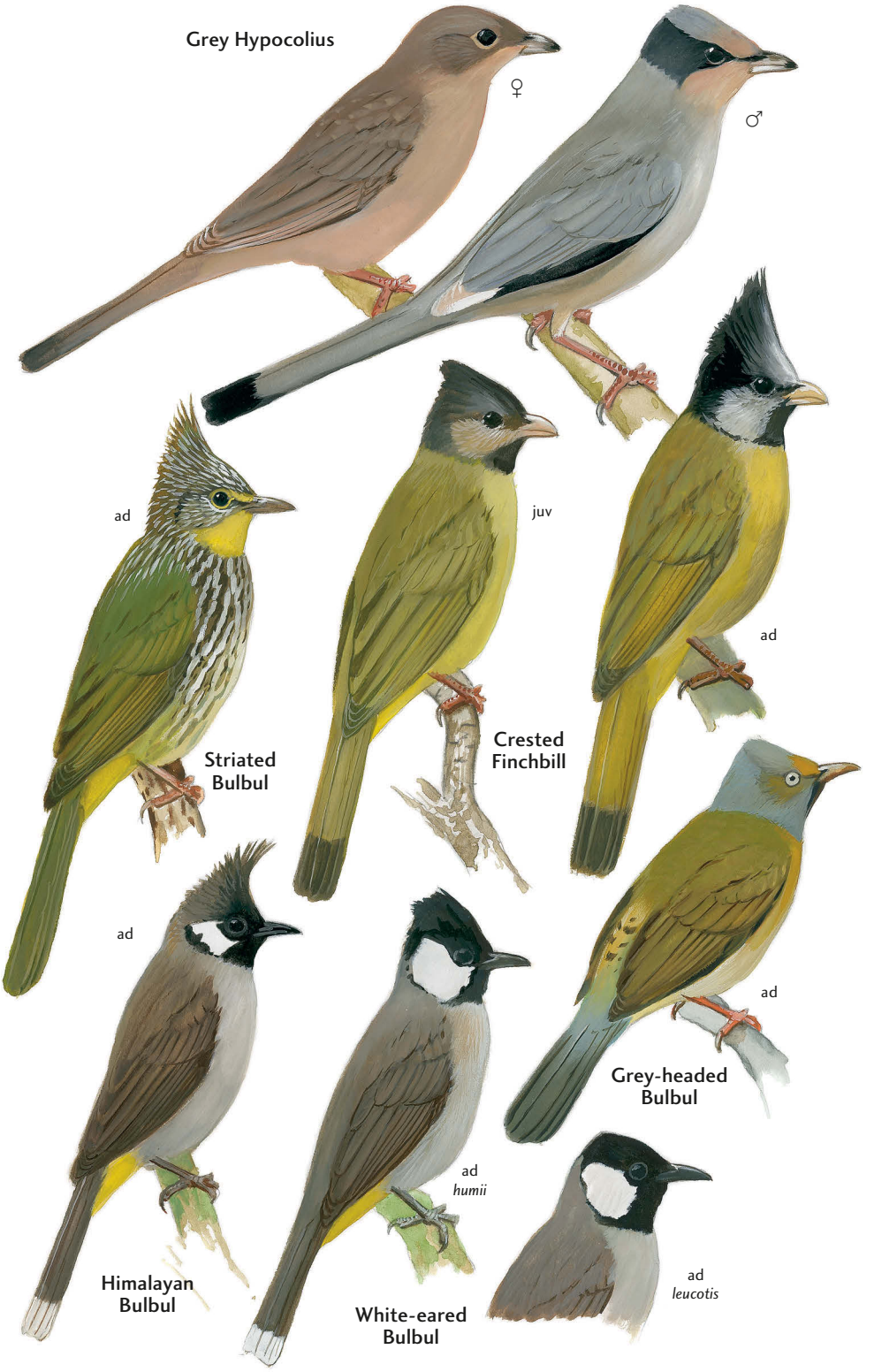
White-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucotis* 20 cm

Resident. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** A white-cheeked bulbul with brown upperparts, whitish underparts (with variable brownish-grey flanks), and yellow vent. Distinguished from Himalayan by black crown and nape, more extensive white cheek-patch, short or non-existent crest and stouter bill. In NW of range, hybridises with Himalayan (‘*humii*’), where it has short crest. Also hybridises with Red-vented (which see for details). **Voice** Short, fast, burbling melodies, repeated with small variations, *ghe-did, ghe-did* etc, very similar to Himalayan. Calls include a mellow *pip* or *pip-pip*. **HH** Bold, cheerful and confiding. Very lively and conspicuous, often sits on tops of perches, posturing and flicking wings. Thorn scrub, dry, open cultivation with thickets, gardens and orchards.



Grey-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus priocephalus* 19 cm

Resident. SW India. **ID** A crestless, grey-and-green bulbul. Has greyish head, greenish-yellow forehead and black chin, striking yellowish bill and white iris, olive-green upperparts, and uneven black barring on grey-green rump. At rest tail appears grey, but in flight shows blackish outer feathers with grey tips. Juvenile has olive-green head, rather than grey, and greener coloration to rump, uppertail-coverts and tail. **Voice** A repeated, distinctive, explosive unmusical *chaink*. **HH** Keeps among foliage in the treetops or in thickets. Feeds on berries and fruits; often with frugivorous species such as other bulbuls, barbets and orioles. Moist, broadleaved evergreen forest with bamboo and other dense undergrowth, also dense thickets in deserted forest clearings.


Grey Hypocolius
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White-eared Bulbul
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Grey-headed Bulbul
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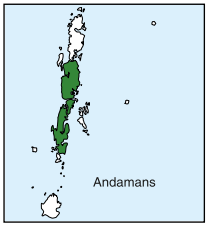
leucotis

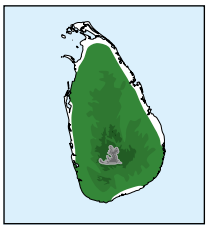
Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps* 18 cm

Resident. NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** A crestless, olive-green and yellow bulbul with black head. From Black-crested by lack of crest, striking yellow panel on wing, and broad black subterminal band and yellow terminal band to tail. Iris is a striking pale blue. Male is brighter olive above and yellower below than female. Rare grey morph has greyish nape and underparts (except for yellow vent and undertail-coverts). Juvenile darker and duller; chin and throat more olive-green, forehead dark olive; upperparts a darker olive, primaries browner, contrasting less with yellow wing panel. **Voice** Song a hesitant series of short, tuneless whistles; call a ringing metallic *chewp*. **HH** Arboreal, from tree tops down to undergrowth, in pairs or family parties. Open forest and gardens.



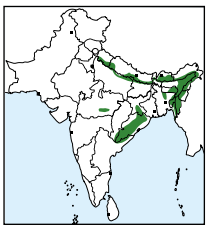
Andaman Bulbul *Pycnonotus* (*atriceps*) *fuscoflavescens* 17.5 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Differs from Black-headed by dusky olive-green head, with blackish throat which contrasts with ear-coverts and breast. Wing panel duller olive, and much less striking than in Black-headed. Tail pattern as Black-headed, with narrower black subterminal band. Male is brighter olive above and yellower below than female. Juvenile similar to female. **Voice** Song is a jolting series of unmelodious short piping whistles; call is a penetrating *cherk*. **HH** Usually in pairs and sometimes with mixed feeding parties; often inconspicuous. Forest and forest edges.



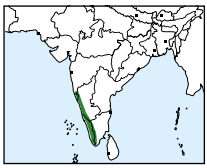
Black-capped Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus* 19 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** A black-capped bulbul with olive-green upperparts and yellow underparts. Lacks crest, and has yellow throat which is concolorous with rest of underparts, dull red or brown iris, and bold white tips to outer tail feathers. Juvenile similar but cap browner. **Voice** Song is an ascending *yor, yer ye* or *wer wer we we*. Rather quiet and retiring compared to most other bulbuls. **HH** Found singly, in pairs or in small parties. Moist broadleaved forest with dense undergrowth, and thick secondary growth. **TN** This and the following two species are usually treated as conspecific, as Black-breasted Bulbul *P. melanicterus*.



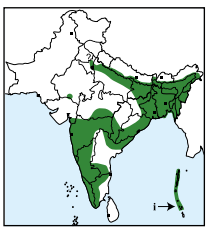
Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus* (*melanicterus*) *flaviventris* 22 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** A black-headed bulbul with olive-green upperparts and yellow underparts. From Black-headed by erect black crest, uniform olive-green wings, uniform olive-brown tail, and yellow iris. Juvenile has dull black head and shorter crest, and paler yellow underparts. **Voice** Song is sweet, musical and lacks harsh notes: *weet-tre-trippy-weet*. **HH** Found singly, in pairs or sometimes in groups in the lower forest storey and in bushes. Open forest and orchards.



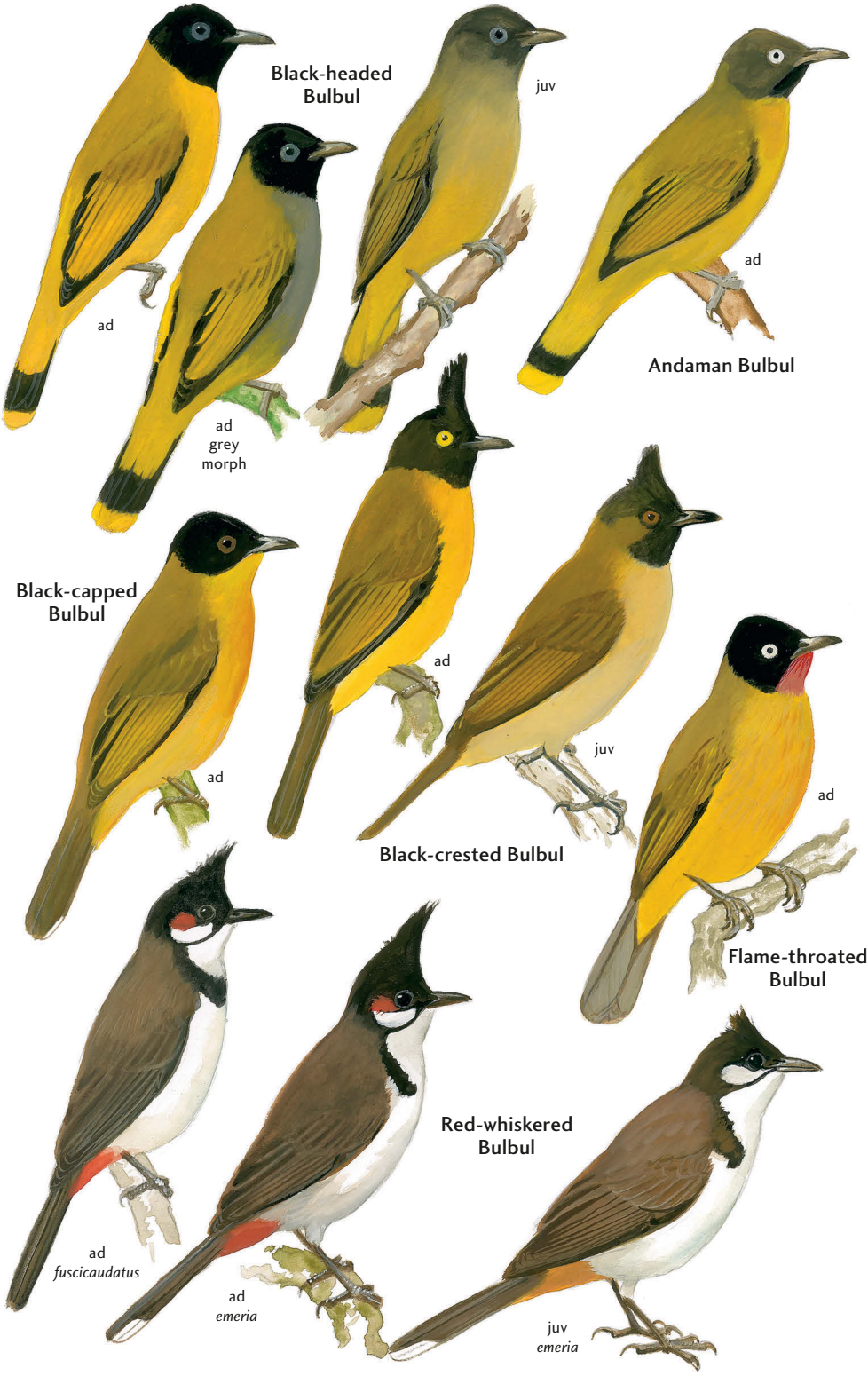
Flame-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus* (*melanicterus*) *gularis* 19.5 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** A black-capped bulbul with olive-green upperparts and yellow underparts. Shows slight crest, and has ruby-red throat, bright yellow breast and belly, and indistinct white tips to outer tail feathers. Juvenile similar but cap browner, and has yellow throat. **Voice** Song is sweet, hurried and rather high-pitched. **HH** Often keeps in small flocks; favours lantana berries. Evergreen forest, lantana thickets and bushes along rivers.



Red-whiskered Bulbul *Pycnonotus jocosus* 20 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in Pakistan, parts of N and NW India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Striking with glossy black crown and erect crest, red patch behind eye, white patch on lower ear-coverts bordered below by black moustachial stripe, white underparts with complete or broken breast-band, and red vent. Lacks white rump (see Red-vented Bulbul). Juvenile lacks red 'whiskers'; crest and nape are a lighter brown compared with adult, and has paler, rufous-orange vent. Races in subcontinent differ in presence or absence of white tips to rectrices, in having a complete or broken breast-band, and in coloration of upperparts (from grey-brown to rufous-brown). **Voice** Calls include a lively *pettigrew* or *kick-pettigrew*. **HH** Active, noisy and confiding. Often perches conspicuously on tops of small bushes. Sometimes in flocks with other bulbuls outside the breeding season. Open forest, scrub jungle, gardens, orchards and bushes around villages and cultivation.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Red-whiskered Bulbul
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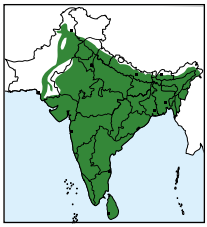
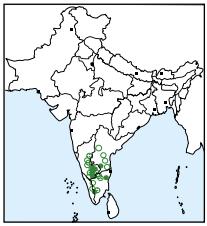


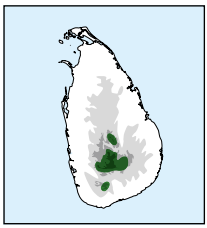
Red-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus cafer* 20 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Has short-crested black head, white rump, white-tipped black tail, and red vent. White rump helps separate from other bulbuls in flight. Juvenile has browner head, rufous edges to flight feathers, buffish cast to white rump, and lacks white tips to tail. Considerable subspecies variation, mainly in extent to which black of head reaches onto mantle and breast and in prominence of whitish fringes to feathers of mantle and breast. In NW of range, frequently hybridises with White-eared and Himalayan. **Voice** Utters a cheery *be-care-ful* or *be quick-quick*; alarm call is a sharp repetitive peep. **HH** Bold, tame and quarrelsome. Keeps in pairs or in small loose flocks. Open deciduous forest, secondary growth, gardens and light scrub.



Yellow-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus xantholaemus* 20 cm

Resident. S Indian hills. **ID** A crestless bulbul with plain yellow-green head and bright yellow throat. Has grey upperparts and underparts, yellow vent and undertail-coverts, and broad whitish tip to tail. Wings and tail are yellowish-green. **Voice** Gives a conversational babble, similar to, but higher-pitched and less raucous than White-browed; pleasant nasal call, a mellow *rhid-tu-tu*. **HH** Keeps in pairs or in small groups of up to six birds. Shy, but often sits on large boulders in the open. Sparse thorn jungle interspersed with some large trees among broken stony hillocks; also moist deciduous habitats in stony hills. Globally threatened.

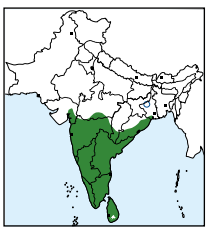


Yellow-eared Bulbul *Pycnonotus penicillatus* 20 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** A striking bulbul, with yellow tuft behind eye and yellow patch on ear-coverts, white tuft extending from lores, and black crown, eye-stripe and moustachial stripe. **Voice** Utters a loud sweet-toned whistle *wheet wit wit*, usually in flight; alarm note is a low *crr crr*. **HH** Fairly shy. Gathers in large numbers when trees are fruiting. Prefers the middle canopy and low bushes. Forest; occasionally garden close to forested patches. Please align maps

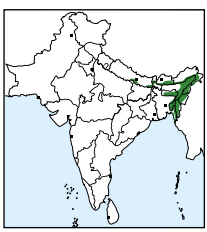
Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens* 22 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Has short white supercilium and/or white eye-crescents, black lore, black bill, slight crest, olive-brown upperparts with greenish cast, brownish-grey underparts (mixed with yellow), yellow undertail-coverts, and olive-yellow in wings and tail. Juvenile has less prominent supercilium, browner upperparts, rufous edges to flight feathers and paler bill. **Voice** Song is a jolly phrase of usually 3–6 notes; harsh alarm call. **HH** Arboreal. Keeps in flocks of 6–30 birds. Rather quiet. Forages inside bushes and trees, rather than perching conspicuously on top. Forest with plenty of undergrowth, thick bushes in deserted cultivation and secondary growth.



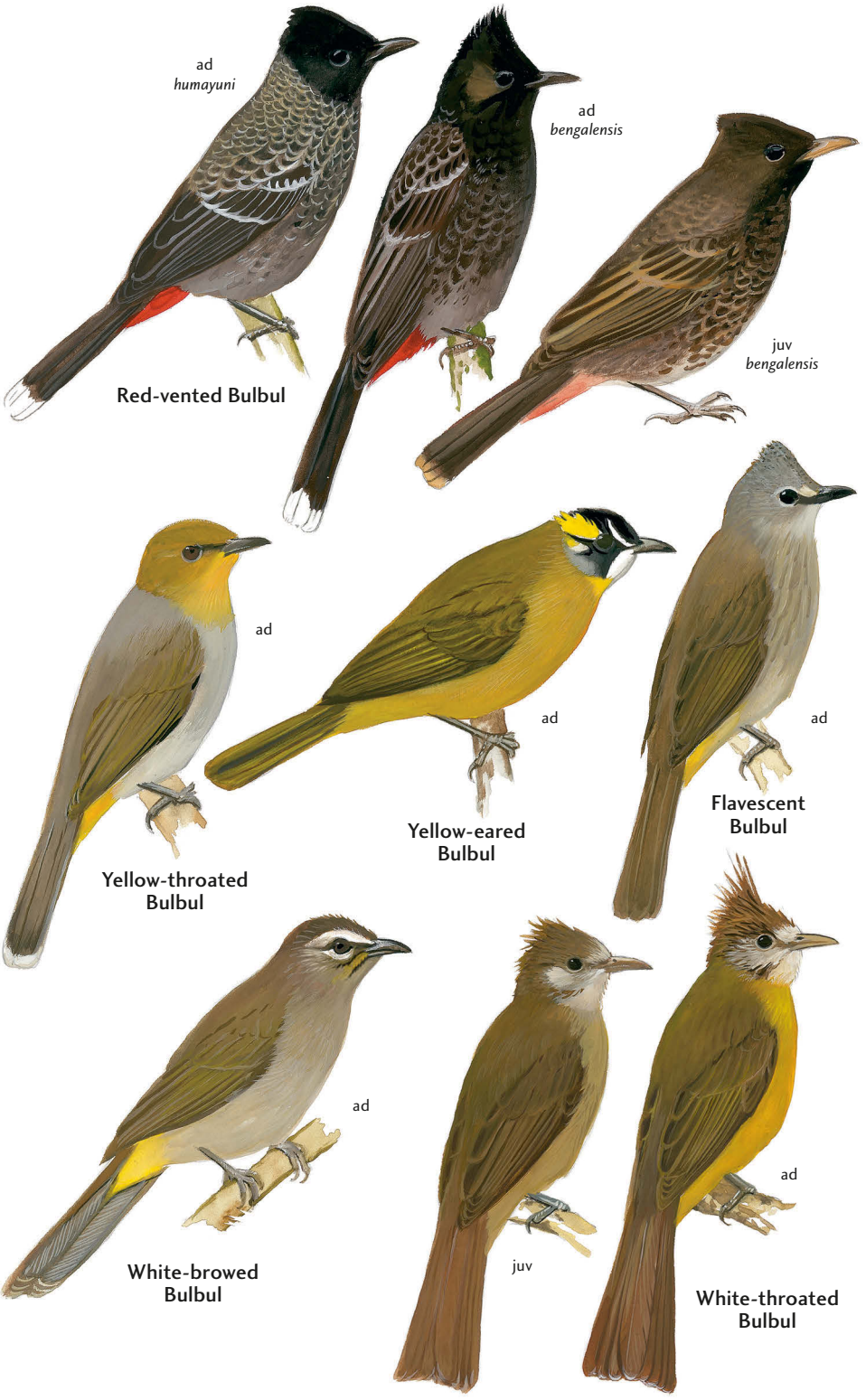
White-browed Bulbul *Pycnonotus luteolus* 20 cm

Resident. Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. **ID** A rather nondescript, olive bulbul. Adult has prominent white supercilium, narrow dark eye-stripe, white crescent beneath eye and dark moustachial stripe, white-streaked ear-coverts, and yellowish chin and malar patch. Pale greyish-olive breast merges into yellowish-white belly; yellowish undertail-coverts. Juvenile has browner upperparts and breast, less distinct supercilium, and uniform olive-brown ear-coverts. **Voice** Simple distinctive song: a cacophonous explosion of loud discordant babbles, usually lasting 1–3 seconds; calls including a rasping *churr*. **HH** Usually in pairs. Shy; skulks within bushes, and heard more often than seen. Dry light scrub jungle, thickets around villages, gardens and forest edges.



White-throated Bulbul *Alophoixus flaveolus* 22 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Adult striking with prominent brownish crest and puffed-out white throat. Also has whitish lores and grey ear-coverts (streaked with white), yellow breast and belly, and olive-green upperparts with rufous-brown cast to wings and tail. Juvenile has browner upperparts, more rufescent wings and tail, and brownish wash to underparts. **Voice** A repeated chacking *chi-chack* and a nasal *cheer*. **HH** Undergrowth in evergreen forest and secondary growth.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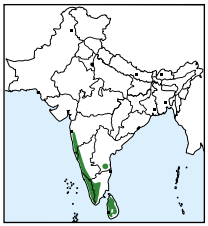
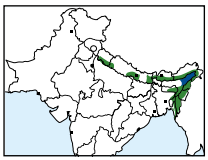


Yellow-browed Bulbul *Acritillas indica* 20 cm

Resident. Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. **ID** From other olive bulbuls by bright yellow supercilium and prominent eye-ring, yellow throat and underparts, and uniform olive-green upperparts. Black bill and dark eye are striking. Olive-green upperparts and ear-coverts (latter with some yellow streaking) and yellow underparts give distinctive two-tone appearance. Juvenile is duller and browner than adult, with paler bill. Three subspecies are recognised from the subcontinent, varying in tone of greenish upperparts and brightness of yellow of underparts. **Voice** Song is a slow repetition of inflected, nasal *pru-eep* or *pru-eehp-eehp*; peevish chaink-*chaink* in alarm. **HH** Moist forest and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Iole*.

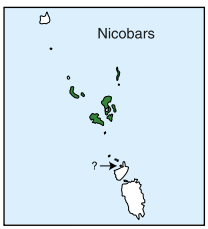
Olive Bulbul *Iole virescens* 19 cm

Resident. NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** A rather nondescript, olive bulbul, with slight crest. Likely to be confused only with Flavescent, but is smaller, and has proportionately shorter tail and longer bill, which is brownish-horn with paler lower mandible. Further, lacks supercilium, has unstreaked pale olive-yellow underparts, pale rufous vent, and rufous-brown tail. Lores and ear-coverts are distinctly paler than crown, giving rise to capped appearance. Legs and feet are brownish-pink (black on Flavescent). **Voice** A disyllabic musical *whe-ic*. **HH** Evergreen forest and secondary growth.



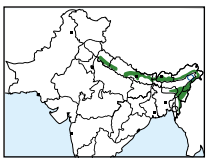
Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala* 20 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** A distinctive, crested bulbul, with black mask, tawny ear-coverts, grey upperparts and greyish-brown tail, olive-yellow wing panel, white throat, and pale grey breast merging into whitish belly. Juvenile is similar to adult, but has shorter crest, browner upperparts, and duller wing panel. **Voice** A loud ringing call of four or five notes, the second or third the highest and the last two descending. **HH** Broadleaved forest.



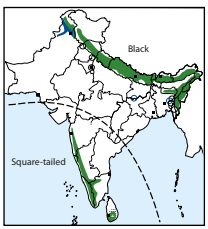
Nicobar Bulbul *Ixos nicobariensis* 20 cm

Resident. Nicobars. **ID** A rather drab olive bulbul, with slight crest. Has dark brown crown and nape, grey face, and olive upperparts with browner wings and tail. Underparts are whitish, faintly washed with yellow, with variable brown on breast sides sometimes forming diffuse breast-band. Juvenile duller with browner upperparts. **Voice** Chattering notes, similar to those of Black. **HH** Forest and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hypsipetes*.



Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii* 24 cm

Resident. **ID** Himalayas and NE India. A distinctive bulbul, with pale streaking on shaggy brown crest, white-streaked greyish throat, and cinnamon-brown breast with buff streaking. Has greenish mantle, wings and tail, and cinnamon vent. Juvenile has shorter crest, uniform grey throat, and browner upperparts. **Voice** A metallic ringing or squawking. **HH** Forest and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly placed in genus *Hypsipetes*.

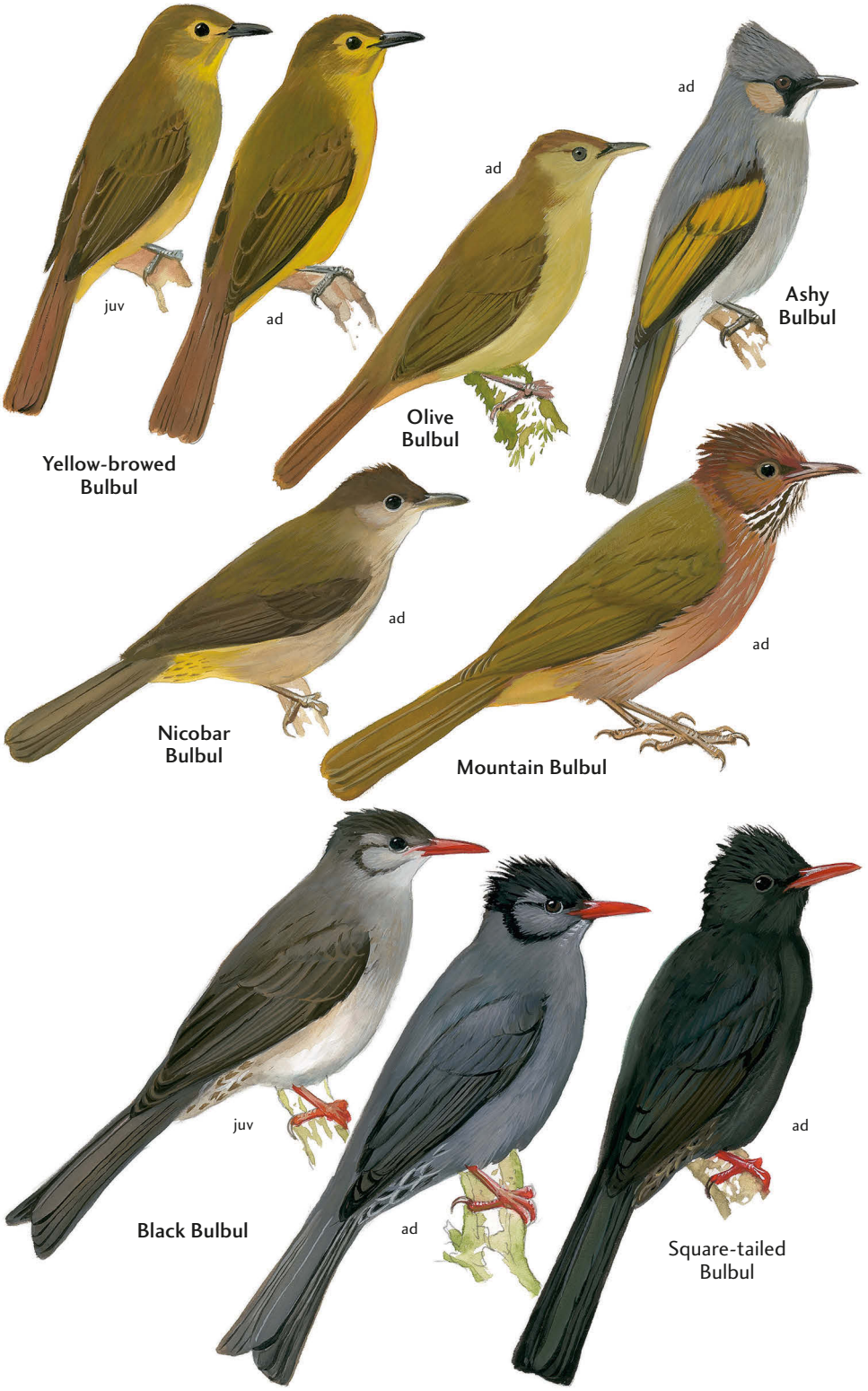


Black Bulbul *Hypsipetes leucocephalus* 25 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** A slate-grey to blackish bulbul, with slight crest. Has bright red bill, legs and feet, pale fringes to undertail-coverts, and shallow fork to tail (at times recalling a drongo). Juvenile lacks crest; has whitish throat, grey breast-band, brownish cast to upperparts, and browner bill, legs and feet. In NE *H. l. nigrescens* is dull black in coloration compared with the paler slate-grey of *H. l. psaroides*, which occupies most of its Himalayan range. **Voice** Song is a monotonously repeated series of three or four rising and falling notes, also screeching and mewing notes. Large flocks give a continuous, shrill, nasal, chattering babble. **HH** Mainly broadleaved forest and plantations.

Square-tailed Bulbul *Hypsipetes* (*leucocephalus*) *ganeesa* 22 cm

Resident. Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. **ID** Darker than Black Bulbul, with squarer tail, and more uniform head (with darker crown, but lacking grey patch above lores and black surround to ear-coverts). **Voice** Much harsher and less nasal than Black. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen forest.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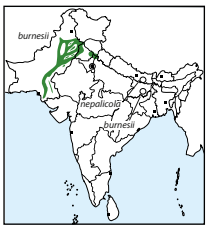
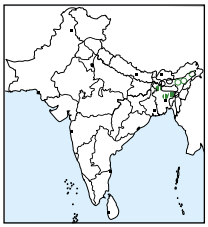


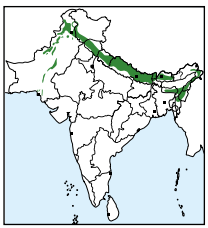
Rufous-vented Prinia *Prinia burnesii* 17 cm

Resident. Indus plains in Pakistan, N India and SE Nepal. **ID** Large, long-tailed prinia with dark streaking on upperparts, whitish throat and breast, conspicuous whitish lores and eye-ring, and rufous-chestnut undertail-coverts. Streaked upperparts have greyish cast to crown and warm rufous-brown cast to nape and upper mantle. Lacks well-defined pale tips and dark subterminal bands visible on underside of tail of Striated Prinia. Juvenile has more uniform sandy grey-brown upperparts (with indistinct streaking), and buffish wash to underparts; uniform wings, rufous (although paler than adult) undertail-coverts, and broad tail are best features. The recently described subspecies *nepalicola* is known only from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Nepal. Compared with the nominate it has lighter rufous undertail-coverts, thinner and fainter streaking on upperparts and sides of breast; it lacks cinnamon coloration on hind collar, and is greyer above with shorter tail. From Swamp Prinia by distinct light rufous undertail coverts, slightly richer body coloration and longer wings. **Voice** Song is a rising and falling, clear, high-pitched warbling, very different from other prinias except Swamp. **HH** Tall grassland and reedbeds.



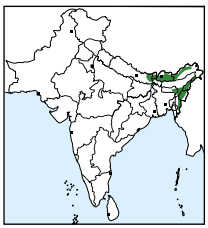
Swamp Prinia *Prinia* (*burnesii*) *cinerascens* 15 cm

Resident. Brahmaputra plains in NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Has cold olive-grey coloration to streaked upperparts, uniform greyish-white underparts, with grey flanks, and grey (rather than rufous) undertail-coverts. Narrow eye-ring and lores are whitish. Considerably larger than similarly coloured Graceful Prinia, with broader tail (lacking white tips and dark subterminal spots). **Voice** Song is an elaborate warble, resembling Rufous-vented, but longer, more varied and faster. **HH** Elephant grass in swamps and by large rivers.



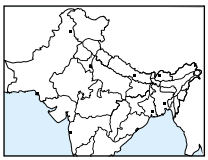
Striated Prinia *Prinia crinigera* 16 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of Pakistan and NE India. **ID** Large, long-tailed, hill-dwelling prinia with stout bill. Adult breeding has dark grey-brown (and very worn) upperparts with ill-defined blackish streaking, dark lores, buffish-white underparts with variable dark grey mottling, narrow rufous-brown edges to remiges, and black bill. Adult non-breeding has rufous-brown (and fresh) upperparts with prominent dark brown streaking, buff lores and eye-ring, warm buff on underparts, especially flanks, broad rufous-brown fringes to remiges, and orange-tinged lower mandible; underside of tail has rufous-buff tips and dark subterminal bands. Female is smaller and shows less marked seasonal variation than male. Juvenile has olive-brown coloration to upperparts, with indistinct streaking (mainly on crown), and warm buff or pale yellowish underparts. Non-breeding *P. c. striatula* in NW has paler greyish coloration to streaked upperparts compared with widespread nominate. **Voice** Song is a monotonous wheezy *chitzereet-chitzereet-chitzereet*. **HH** Scrubby hillsides, and long grass in open forest.



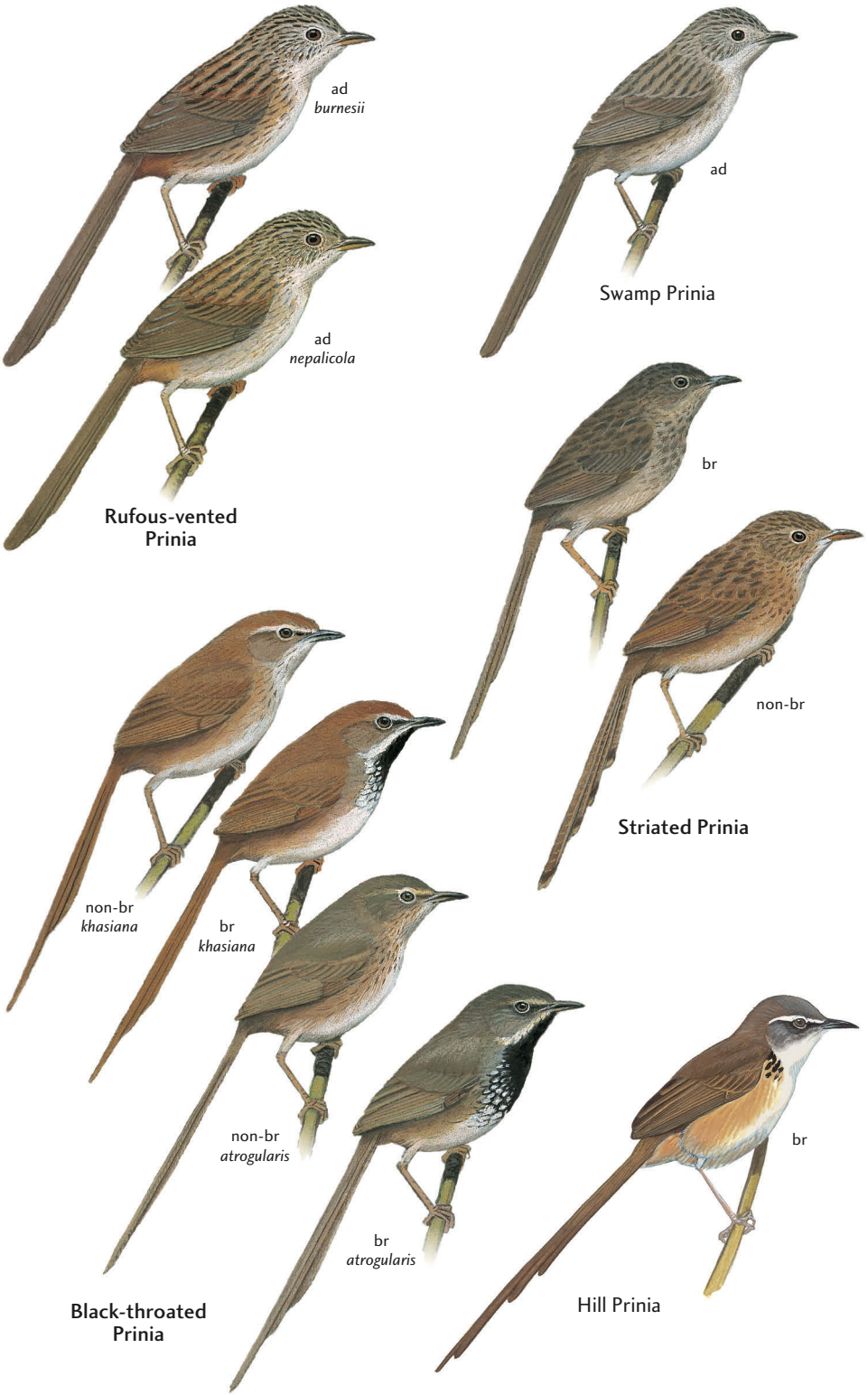
Black-throated Prinia *Prinia atrogularis* 17 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Large, long and narrow-tailed, hill-dwelling prinia. Adult breeding nominate (of Himalayas) has black throat and breast, white moustachial stripe and breast spotting, greyish ear-coverts and breast sides, greyish olive-brown upperparts and tail, olive-buff fringes to remiges forming panel on wing, whitish belly, and olive-buff flanks. Adult non-breeding is very different, with white supercilium, buff underparts with variable dark mottling/streaking on sides of throat and breast (sometimes covering whole of throat and breast), and rufous-brown edges to remiges. From Striated by white supercilium contrasting with dark lores, unstreaked upperparts (can appear diffusely streaked, especially on lower back), and longer and finer bill. Juvenile is similar to non-breeding adult, but with yellowish wash on underparts and darker olive breast-band. *P. a. khasiana* (E and S of Brahmaputra R) has rufous-brown upperparts (especially crown) and warmer buff flanks in both breeding and non-breeding plumages. **Voice** Song is a loud *tulip... tulip... tulip*. **HH** Scrub and grass.



Hill Prinia *Prinia* (*atrogularis*) *superciliaris* 18 cm

Resident? E Arunachal Pradesh. **ID** Adult has grey crown and ear-coverts, prominent white supercilium contrasting with dark lores, and variable black streaking on breast, and cinnamon belly and vent. **Voice** Song is much clearer and more musical than Black-throated. **HH** Undergrowth in dry woodland. **TN** Treated here as conspecific with Black-throated Prinia.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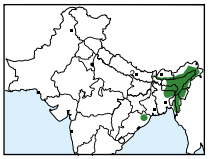
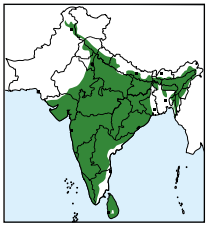


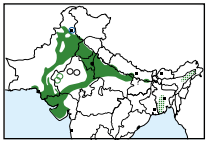
Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens* 11 cm

Resident. E Himalayas, hills of NE and E India and Bangladesh. **ID** Adult breeding has grey crown and ear-coverts, white supercilium and black bill. Adult non-breeding from Grey-breasted by larger and stouter bill (with pale base to lower bill), more rufescent upperparts and tail, stronger rufous wash on flanks, and nasal buzzing call. Juvenile has greyish-olive cast to crown, yellowish on underparts. **Voice** Song a rhythmic *chewp chewp chewp*. **HH** Tall grassland, grass under forest.



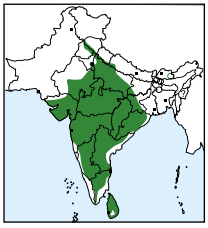
Grey-breasted Prinia *Prinia hodgsonii* 11 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded from parts of the northwest. **ID** Adult breeding has grey 'cap' and upperparts, and variable greyish breast-band (poorly defined in N and NE). Adult non-breeding (except Sri Lanka) has white supercilium and dark lores, olive-brown upperparts with rufescent cast, and white to greyish underparts. *P. h. pectoralis* (Sri Lanka) has grey upperparts and breast throughout year; breast band is incomplete in female. **Voice** Song is a rhythmic undulating *tirr-irr-irr-irr*. **HH** Bushes at forest edges, scrub and secondary growth.



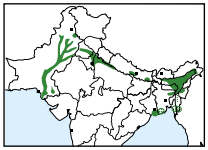
Graceful Prinia *Prinia gracilis* 11 cm

Resident. Lowlands in N subcontinent. **ID** Small prinia with streaked sandy grey-brown upperparts, white underparts, and cross-barred tail. *P. g. stevensi* (Brahmaputra and lower Ganges) has darker and greyer upperparts and duller greyish-white underparts compared with the more widely distributed *P. g. lepida*. **Voice** Song is a fast, rhythmic wheezy warble *ze-r witze-r wit*. **HH** Tall grass and scrub, especially by wetlands.



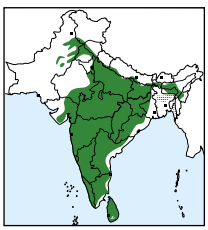
Jungle Prinia *Prinia sylvatica* 13 cm

Widespread in lowlands and foothills; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** Larger-bodied and stouter-billed than Plain Prinia, with sturdier-looking tail; supercilium usually less distinct than Plain (diagnostic when absent) Adult breeding has grey upperparts, largely white outer rectrices and black bill; Adult non-breeding has longer tail with buffish outer tips, orange-brown lower mandible, and is more rufescent-brown above . Female smaller with less seasonal variation than male. Juvenile has more olive-brown upperparts, with more rufescent wings, and can have yellowish wash on underparts. *P. s. valida* (Sri Lanka) has darker and greyer upperparts and shows no seasonal variation. **Voice** Loud, pulsing song *zee-chu* repeated metronomically. **HH** Dry scrub and tall grass.



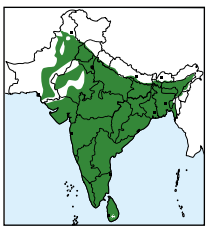
Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* 13 cm

Resident. Fairly widespread in N subcontinent. **ID** Adult has fine white supercilium (sometimes lacking), white throat and breast, slate-grey forecrown and ear-coverts, dark olive-green upperparts, yellowish belly and vent. Juvenile has yellowish olive-brown upperparts (no blue-grey on head), uniform pale yellow underparts. *P. f. sindhiana* (NW) paler on belly and flanks than *P. f. flaviventris* (NE). **Voice** Song a sharp *chirp* followed by a five-note trill. **HH** Tall grass by wetlands.



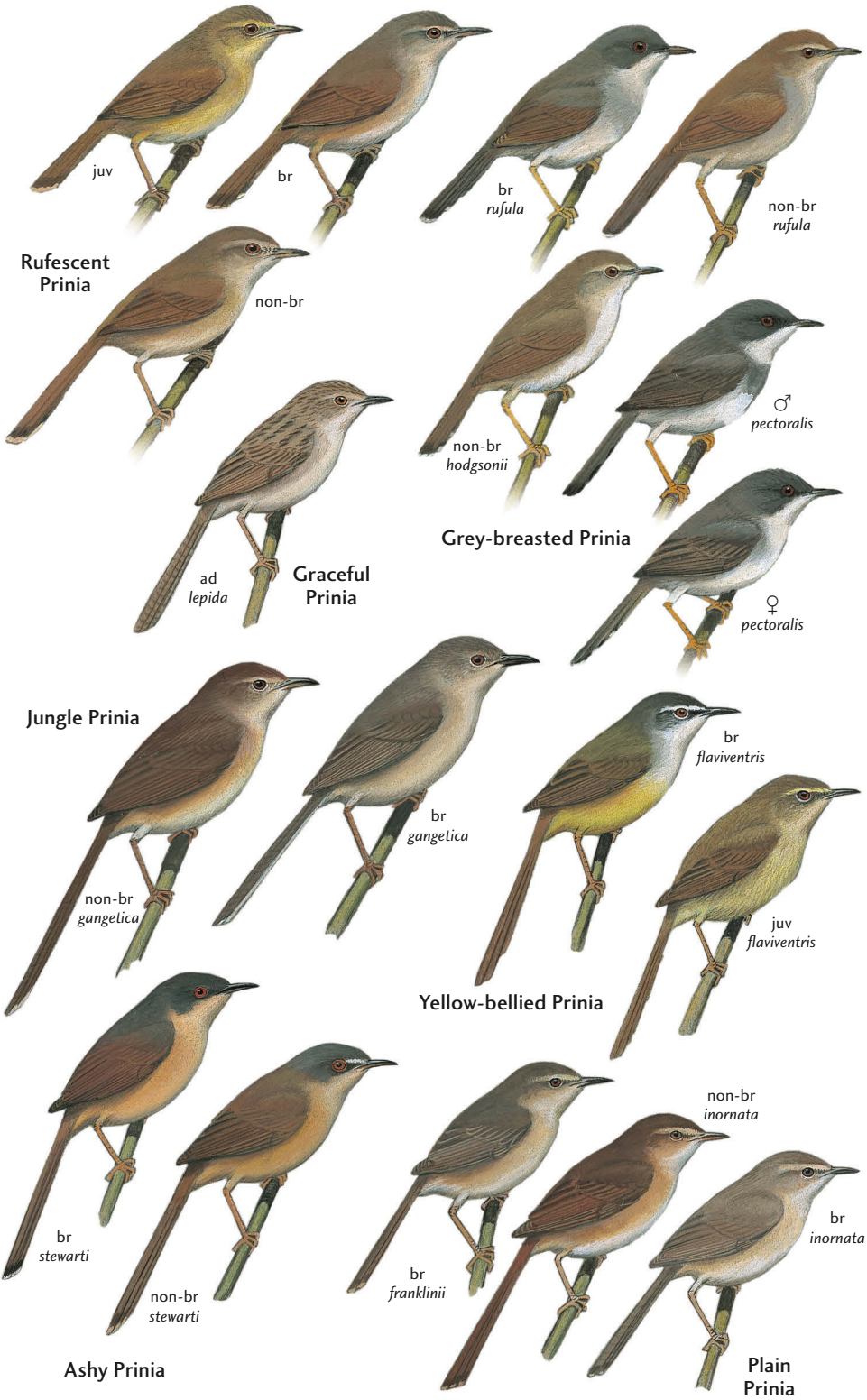
Ashy Prinia *Prinia socialis* 13 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded from parts of the northwest. **ID** Has white supercilium (sometimes lacking), slate-grey crown and ear-coverts, red eye, slate-grey (breeding) or rufous-brown (non-breeding) mantle, orange-buff wash on underparts, and prominent black subterminal marks (and whitish tips) to tail feathers. Juvenile has greenish upperparts and buffish-yellow underparts. *P. s. inglisi* (NE) and *P. s. brevicauda* (Sri Lanka) have slate-grey upperparts throughout the year. *P. s. brevicauda* has short tail, whiter underparts and brown iris. **Voice** Song is a wheezy *jimmy-jimmy-jimmy*. **HH** Tall grass and scrub, open secondary growth and reedbeds.



Plain Prinia *Prinia inornata* 13 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Adult breeding has black bill, grey-brown upperparts and whitish underparts, with largely white outermost rectrices. Adult non-breeding has longer tail, pale base to lower mandible, warm brown upperparts, more rufescent wings and tail, buff tips and dark subterminal marks to rectrices, and warm buff wash to underparts . Juvenile is more rufescent. *P. i. franklinii* (SW India) and *P. i. insularis* (Sri Lanka) have darker and greyer upperparts (and show little seasonal variation). **Voice** Song is a rapid, wheezy trill, *tlick tlick tlick*. **HH** Tall crops, reeds, grassland, scrub and tall grass, and mangroves.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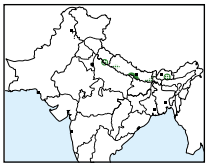
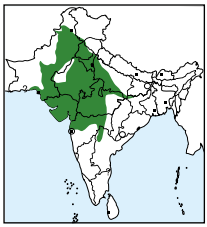


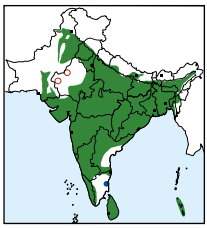
Grey-crowned Prinia *Prinia cinereocapilla* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills and Assam. **ID** Superficially resembles a small, short-tailed Ashy. Bill fine and black in all plumages. In non-breeding plumage, supercilium is orange-buff, and extends noticeably (and becomes whiter) beyond eye. Shows noticeable contrast between purer blue-grey crown and nape and more rufescent-brown mantle and back compared with Ashy. Supercilium is absent in breeding plumage. Juvenile is undescribed. **Voice** Song is a squeezed-out *cheeeeeeeesum-zip-zip-zip*. **HH** Bushes at forest edges and secondary growth. Globally threatened.



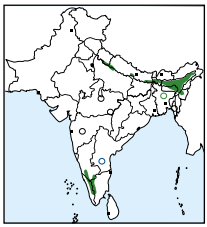
Rufous-fronted Prinia *Prinia buchanani* 12 cm

Resident. Pakistan and NW and C India. **ID** Adult has rufous-brown forehead and crown, and broad white tips to all but central tail feathers (which are very prominent in flight). Underparts lack buff wash which is often apparent on Plain, and pale yellowish lower mandible (all black on breeding Plain). In worn plumage, crown becomes greyer-brown and almost concolorous with mantle. Juvenile has uniform pale rufous-brown upperparts (lacking distinct rufous crown) and buffer underparts; bold white tail tips are best feature. **Voice** Song is a *chid-le-weest* followed by a repetitive *chidle-ee... chidle-ee* etc. **HH** Scrub in semi-desert.



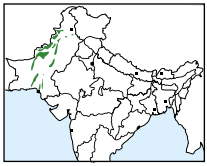
Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis* 10 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Adult breeding has diffusely streaked grey-brown crown, and often rather distinct buff or rufous rump. Adult non-breeding has longer tail, more heavily streaked upperparts and often less distinct rump; some birds have brighter rufous-buff coloration to upperparts, but lack the more clearly defined rufous nape of Golden-headed Cisticola. First-winter has sulphur-yellow wash to underparts and less heavily streaked upperparts. See Golden-headed for differences from that species. **Voice** Song uttered in distinctive display flight is a repeated *pip*. **HH** Fields and grassland.



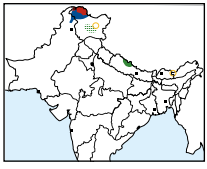
Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* 10 cm

Resident. Terai, NE and S Indian hills, and Bangladesh. **ID** In all plumages from Zitting by blacker tail with narrow buffish or greyish tips (broader white tips in Zitting), unstreaked rufous nape and sides of neck, and rufous (rather than whitish) supercilium. Breeding male *C. e. erythrocephala* (Western Ghats) has unstreaked rufous crown and nape, and rufous-buff underparts (often forming breast-band). Breeding male *C. e. tytleri* (N and NE) has unstreaked creamy-white crown and underparts, rufous-brown wash to nape and sides of neck, and unstreaked olive-grey rump. Female and non-breeding male of both subspecies have heavily streaked crown and mantle, and more closely resemble Zitting. Tail much longer in non-breeding plumage. First-winter has yellow wash to underparts. **Voice** Song comprises one or two jolly doubled notes introduced by a buzzy wheeze: *bzzeeee... joo-ee*; the wheeze is often repeated separately. **HH** Tall grassland; scrubby hillsides in S India. **AN** Bright-headed Cisticola.



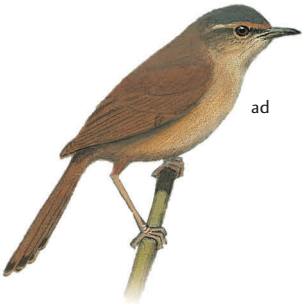
Scrub Warbler *Scotocerca inquieta* 10 cm

Resident. Pakistan hills. **ID** Superficially resembles Graceful Prinia, although is stockier, with bigger head, and blunter, broader and darker tail. Main differences are broad vinous-buff supercilium, blackish lores and eye-stripe, fine dark streaking on white throat, vinous-buff ear-coverts, breast sides and flanks, greyish cast to upperparts, with boldly streaked crown (and ill-defined streaking on mantle), and dark underside to tail (except for white tips). **Voice** Song is a thin *di-di-di-di-di* followed by warbling *toodle toodle toodle*. **HH** Dry stony and scrubby slopes. **AN** Streaked Scrub Warbler.

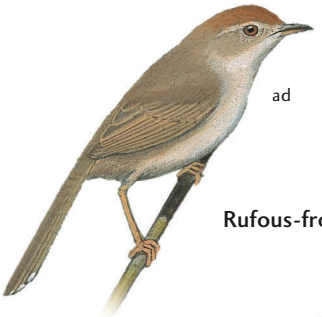


White-browed Tit Warbler *Leptopoecile sophiae* 10 cm

Resident. N Himalayas from Pakistan to Arunachal Pradesh. **ID** All plumages have white supercilium, rufous crown, greyish upperparts, white outer tail feathers, and bluish flanks and rump. Male has lilac wash to crown, and violet-blue sides to head, throat and breast. Female has pale grey-brown head sides and buffish-white underparts (except for lilac wash to flanks). Male *L. s. obscura* (C Himalayas) has darker upperparts and deeper purple on underparts, lacking clearly defined buff belly, compared with male nominate (W Himalayas). Female *obscura* has darker, deeper rufous crown, and greyer underparts. **Voice** Song a sweet loud chirping. **HH** Scrub in semi-desert.

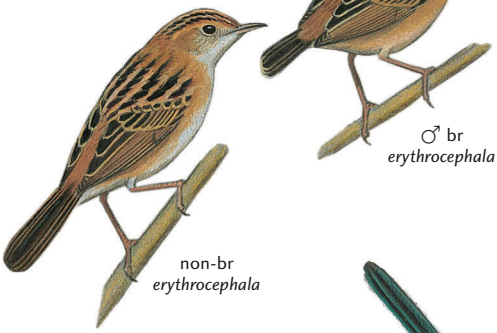


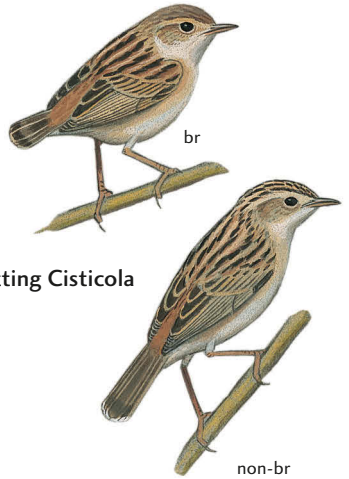
Grey-crowned Prinia



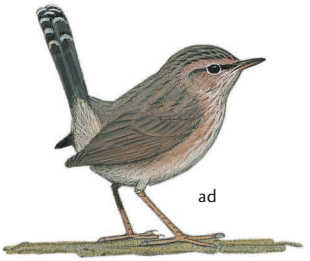
Rufous-fronted Prinia

Golden-headed Cisticola

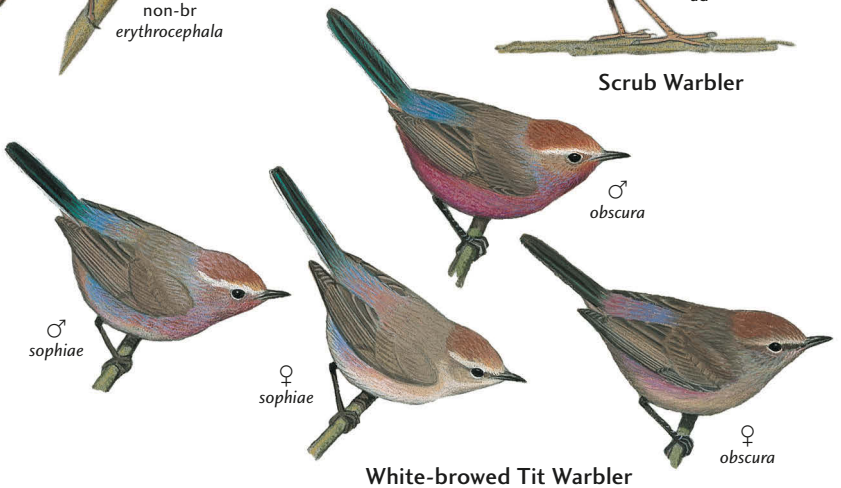




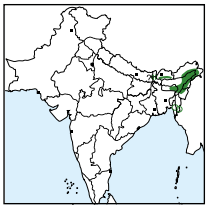
Zitting Cisticola



Scrub Warbler

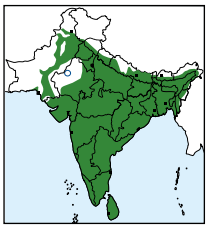


White-browed Tit Warbler



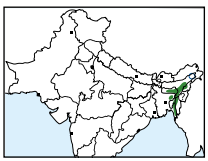
Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus* 13 cm

Resident. E Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From other tailorbirds by brighter orange-rufous forecrown, yellowish supercilium contrasting with dark grey eye-stripe, grey ear-coverts, grey nape and sides of breast, and bright yellow belly and undertail-coverts. Confusable with Broad-billed Warbler, but has long (slender) bill, less extensive rufous on crown, grey nape, yellowish supercilium, and whiter throat. Juvenile has olive-green crown and nape (concolorous with mantle), and diffuse eye-stripe. **Voice** Song is a thin, high-pitched and melodious whistle of 4–6 notes. **HH** Evergreen forest and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Orthotomus*.



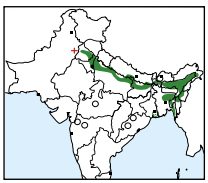
Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* 13 cm

Widespread resident. Only tailorbird throughout most of range. **ID** Has long (slightly down-curved) pale bill, rufous forehead and forecrown, greenish upperparts, and dull whitish or buffish underparts. Breeding male has elongated central tail feathers. Juvenile lacks rufous on forecrown. Subspecies in Sri Lanka (e.g. *O. s. sutorius*) have darker and greener upperparts and lack supercilium. **Voice** Song is a loud *pitchik-pitchik-pitchik*. **HH** Bushes in gardens, cultivation edges and forest edges.



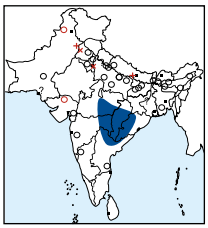
Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis* 13 cm

Resident. NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Common by rufous extending onto hind crown, yellow bend of wing, yellow flanks and undertail-coverts, brighter green upperparts, and different call. Male has blackish lower throat and sides of breast (although Common, when calling or singing, reveals dark bases to feathers of neck). Juvenile lacks rufous on forecrown. **Voice** Song is a rather high, agitated, repeated *pirrah*. **HH** Dense scrub and edges of evergreen forest.



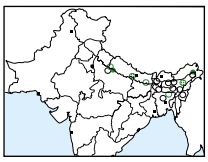
Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* 25 cm

Resident. Lowlands in NE and C subcontinent. **ID** Large with brownish-buff upperparts prominently streaked with black, whitish supercilium, rufous crown, whitish underparts with fine brown streaking on breast and flanks, and long, graduated tail. In fresh plumage, supercilium and underparts are strongly washed with pale yellow and streaking on underparts is partially obscured. **Voice** Song is a clear, drawn-out whistle, ending in a short explosive *wheeechoo*. **HH** Tall damp grassland, reedbeds and tamarisks.



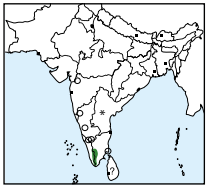
Bristled Grassbird *Chaetornis striata* 20 cm

Local resident. Mainly lowlands in India and Nepal. **ID** From Striated by smaller size, stout bill, less distinct supercilium (barely apparent behind eye), and shorter (broader) tail with pale shafts and buffish-white tips and with more prominent dark cross-barring (undertail appears blackish with broad whitish tips, although these can be lost through wear). In fresh plumage, underparts are washed with buff and feathers of upperparts and wings have broad buff fringes. Upperparts become greyer-brown and underparts whiter when worn. **Voice** Song is a disyllabic *trew-treuw* repeated at two-three second intervals. **HH** Tall grassland with bushes, and paddy-fields. Globally threatened.



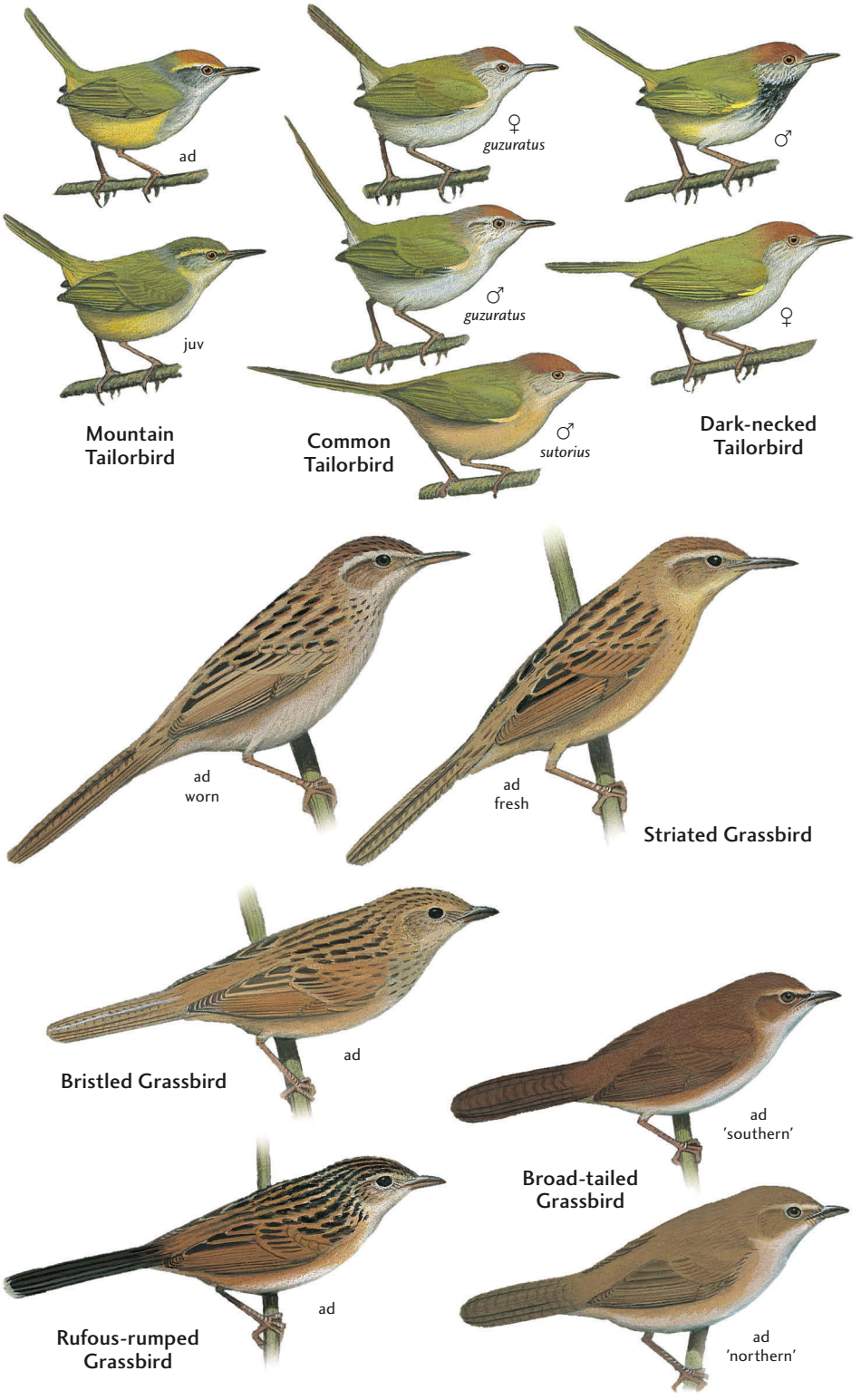
Rufous-rumped Grassbird *Graminicola bengalensis* 18 cm

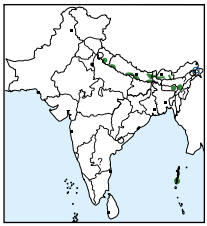
Resident. Terai and NE plains. **ID** Dark upperparts with rufous streaking on crown and lower mantle, and white or buff streaking on nape and upper mantle. Largely rufous rump and wings. Tail blackish broadly tipped with white. Underparts white with rufous-buff breast sides and flanks. **Voice** Song is a subdued high *er-wi-wi-wi-*, *you-wuoo, yu-wuoo*, followed by a series of harsh notes and ending with wheezy sounds. **HH** Tall grass and reeds near water.



Broad-tailed Grassbird *Schoenicola platyurus* 18 cm

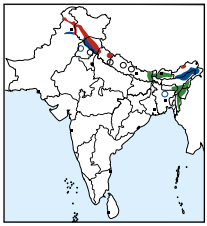
Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** Readily identified by stout bill, long and broad dark tail, unstreaked upperparts, and whitish underparts. Has buffish supercilium. In southern part of range has rufous-brown upperparts and rufous-buff wash to breast and flanks. In northern part of range has paler, sandy greyish-brown upperparts and whiter underparts. **Voice** Song is a shrill and sweet trill ending with a few warbling and *chack* notes. **HH** Tall grass and reeds on open hillsides. Globally threatened.


ad
juv
Mountain Tailorbird
♀ guzuratus
♂ guzuratus
♂ sutorius
Common Tailorbird
♂
♀
Dark-necked Tailorbird
ad worn
ad fresh
Striated Grassbird
ad
Bristled Grassbird
ad 'southern'
Broad-tailed Grassbird
ad
Rufous-rumped Grassbird
ad 'northern'



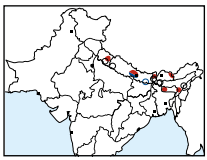
Pale-footed Bush Warbler *Cettia pallidipes* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and S Andamans. **ID** From Brownish-flanked Bush Warbler by whiter underparts (contrasting with brownish-olive breast sides and flanks), more rufescent upperparts, shorter (square-ended) tail, pale pinkish legs and feet, and different song and call. In Andamans (*C. p. osmastoni*) has larger bill, darker and richer brown upperparts, and warmer buff breast sides and flanks. **Voice** Song is loud, explosive *zip... zip-tschuk-o-tschuk*. **HH** Tall grass and bushes at forest edges.



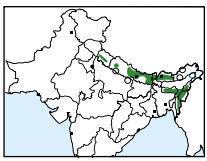
Brown-flanked Bush Warbler *Cettia fortipes* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** From Pale-footed by duskier underparts, which are mainly pale buffish-grey with brownish-olive flanks. Also longer (rounded) tail, brownish legs and feet, more olive coloration to upperparts, less prominent supercilium and eye-stripe, and different song and call. Nominate (E Himalayas and NE) has warmer, rufous-brown upperparts compared with *C. f. pallidus* (W Himalayas), brownish-buff (rather than buffish-grey) coloration to throat and breast, and buffish (rather than greyish-white) supercilium. Juvenile has yellow underparts; confusable with Aberrant Bush Warbler, but upperparts browner. **Voice** Song is a loud whistle, *weeee*, followed by explosive *chiwiyou*. **HH** Open forest and thickets.



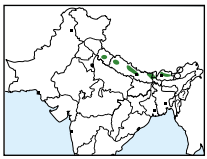
Chestnut-crowned Bush Warbler *Cettia major* 13 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From Grey-sided Bush Warbler by larger size and more robust appearance, larger bill, longer supercilium (indistinct and rufous-buff in front of eye), and whiter underparts (particularly throat and centre of breast). Juvenile lacks chestnut on crown, and is more olive on upperparts and underparts, with greyish-buff supercilium behind eye; whiter throat and belly separate it from juvenile Grey-sided. **Voice** Song comprises an introductory note followed by a three or four note explosive warble. Call very similar to Grey-sided's. **HH** Summers in rhododendron shrubberies and bushes in forest; winters in reedbeds.



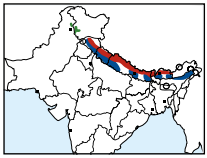
Aberrant Bush Warbler *Cettia flavolivacea* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From other bush warblers by yellowish-green cast to olive upperparts, yellowish supercilium, and buffish-yellow to olive-yellow underparts. Confusable with Tickell's Leaf Warbler, but has longer, 'loosely attached' and rounded tail, usually held slightly cocked, more rounded wings, and grating call accompanied by much wing-flicking. In NE India (*weberi*) is browner above, and more buffish below (yellowish only on belly). **Voice** Song is a short warble, followed by a long inflected whistle *dir dir-tee teee-weee*. Call is a *brrrt-brrrt*, different from any *Phylloscopus*. **HH** Bushes at forest edges, long grass and bushes in pine forest.



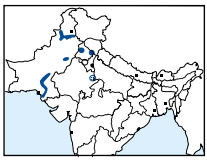
Hume's Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnescens* 9.5 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** From Brownish-flanked by smaller and finer bill, paler rufous-brown upperparts with strong olive cast (especially to lower back and rump), noticeable rufous fringes to tertials, and paler underparts with yellowish belly and flanks (yellow sometimes barely apparent). **Voice** Song is a thin, high-pitched *see-saw see-saw see-saw* etc. **HH** Bamboo stands. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Yellowish-bellied Bush Warbler *C. acanthizoides*.



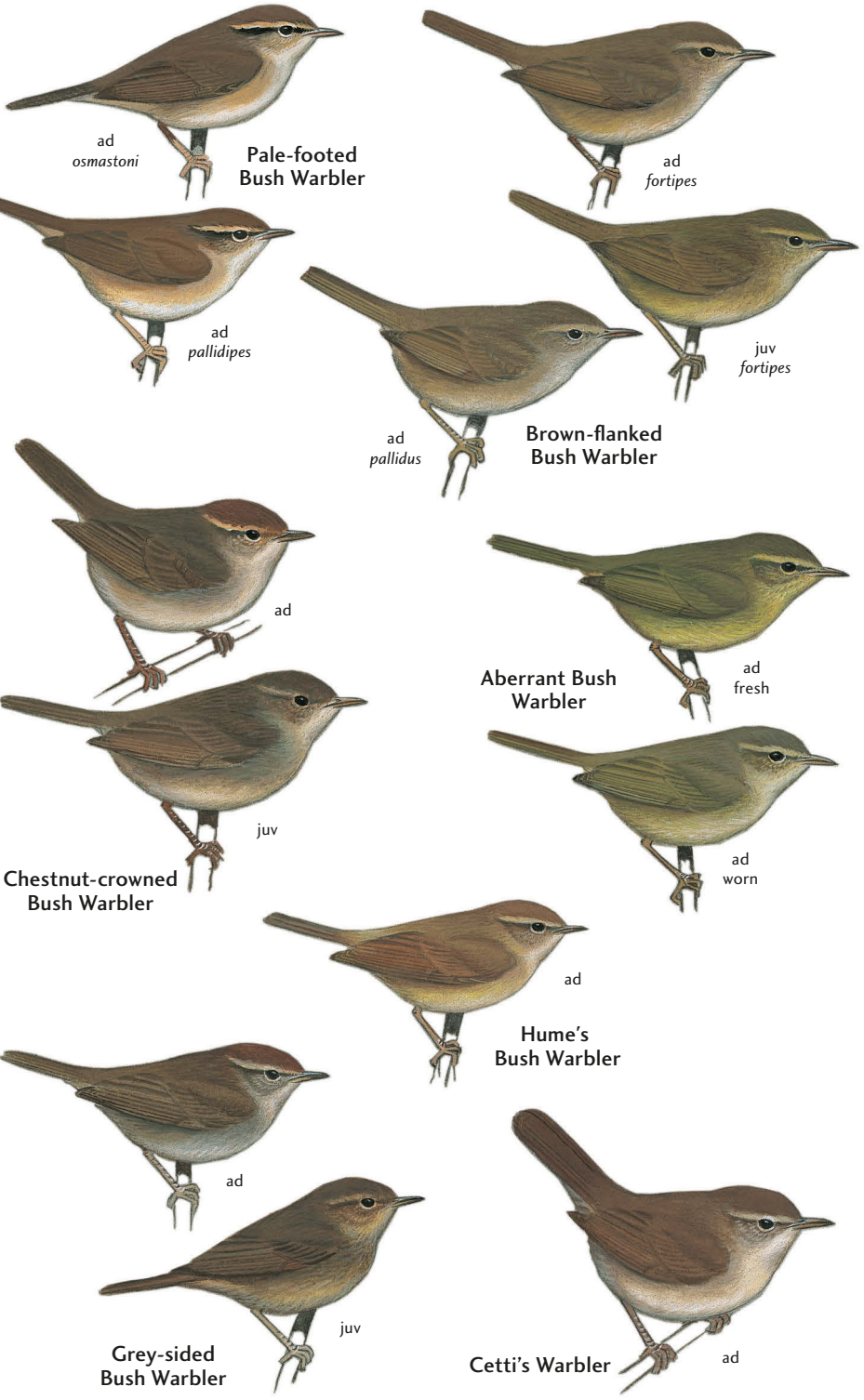
Grey-sided Bush Warbler *Cettia brunnifrons* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** From Chestnut-crowned by smaller size, smaller bill, shorter supercilium (whitish buff and well defined in front of eye), and greyer underparts. Juvenile lacks chestnut crown, with rufous-brown upperparts and brownish-olive underparts. **Voice** Song is a loud wheezing *sip ti ti sip*, repeated continually. Call is a bunting-like *pseek*. **HH** Summers in high-altitude shrubberies and bushes at forest edges; winters in scrub and forest undergrowth.



Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* 14 cm

Winter visitor and passage migrant. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Very white on breast and with greyish-white supercilium. From Pale-footed by larger size, more robust appearance and larger tail, shorter and less prominent supercilium, greyish (rather than olive) breast sides and flanks, dull white tips to long greyish-brown undertail-coverts. **Voice** Song is an explosive *chit... chit... chitity chit... chitity chit*; call is an explosive *chit*. **HH** Reedbeds and tamarisks.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Brown-flanked
Bush Warbler
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ad
fresh
Aberrant Bush
Warbler
juv
ad
worn
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Bush Warbler
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Hume's
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Bush Warbler
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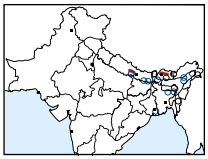
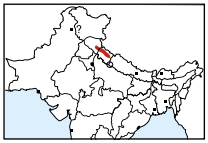
Cetti's Warbler



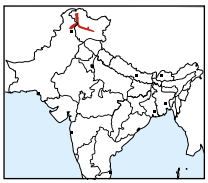
Spotted Bush Warbler *Bradypterus thoracicus* 13 cm

Breeds in C and E Himalayas; winters in foothills and NE Indian plains. **ID** From other bush warblers by combination of spotting on throat and breast (can be indistinct), fine greyish supercilium, dark olive-brown upperparts with rufescent cast, grey ear-coverts and breast, olive-brown flanks, and boldly patterned undertail-coverts with dark brown centres and sharply defined white tips. Juvenile lacks grey on underparts, and has cloudy olive-brown spotting and faint olive-yellow wash to underparts. **Voice** Song is a *trick-i-di* etc. **HH** Summers in high altitude shrubberies, grass and bushes; winters in reedbeds and tall grass.



West Himalayan Bush Warbler *Bradypterus kashmirensis* 13 cm

Breeds in W Himalayas. **ID** Two morphs occur. One is much as Spotted, although paler and less richly coloured, with whiter supercilium. A second is more distinctive with buffish supercilium and wash across breast. **Voice** Song comprises rhythmic, mechanical buzzing and clicking notes. **HH** Habitat as Spotted. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Spotted Bush Warbler *B. thoracicus*.

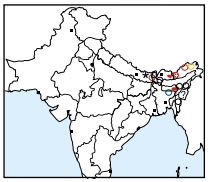


Long-billed Bush Warbler *Bradypterus major* 13 cm

Breeds in W Himalayas. **ID** From other *Bradypterus* by longer and finer bill, prominent white supercilium, whiter underparts, with whiter lower throat and breast, and olive-buff or buff flanks, longer tail, and unmarked undertail-coverts. Extent of spotting varies (from covering entire throat and upper breast, to being almost lacking except on ear-coverts and malar region). Upperparts warm olive-brown when fresh; cold greyish-olive when worn. Juvenile has cloudy spotting and yellowish wash to underparts. **Voice** Song is monotonous *pikha-pikha-pikha* etc. **HH** Bushy hillsides, and thickets at forest edges.

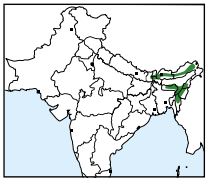
Chinese Bush Warbler *Bradypterus tacsanowskius* 14 cm

Winter visitor. E Nepal and NE India. **ID** Very similar to Brown Bush Warbler, but has greyer-brown upperparts with olive cast, olive grey-brown ear-coverts and breast (latter often with yellowish wash), olive-buff flanks, and pale tips to undertail-coverts (which are lacking or only just apparent on Brown). Shows variable (sometimes indistinct) whitish supercilium. Some birds have fine spotting on lower throat. Juvenile has strong yellowish wash to breast and flanks, yellowish-buff undertail-coverts, and stronger olive wash to upperparts. **Voice** Song is a rasping, insect-like *dzzzeep-dzzzeep-dzzzeep* etc. **HH** Reedbeds, grass and bushes, and paddyfields.



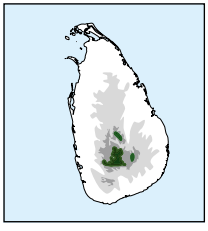
Brown Bush Warbler *Bradypterus luteoventris* 13.5 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Very similar to Chinese, but has warmer brown upperparts (with slight rufescent cast), and warm rufous-buff ear-coverts, sides of neck and breast, and flanks, contrasting with silky-white of rest of underparts. Also has indistinct rufous-buff supercilium to eye (and concolorous with lores), and lacks prominent pale tips to undertail-coverts. Does not have spotting on throat and breast. Juvenile has yellowish wash to underparts. **Voice** Song is a quiet, rapid *tutututututututu...* etc. **HH** Grassy hills, and undergrowth in pine forest.



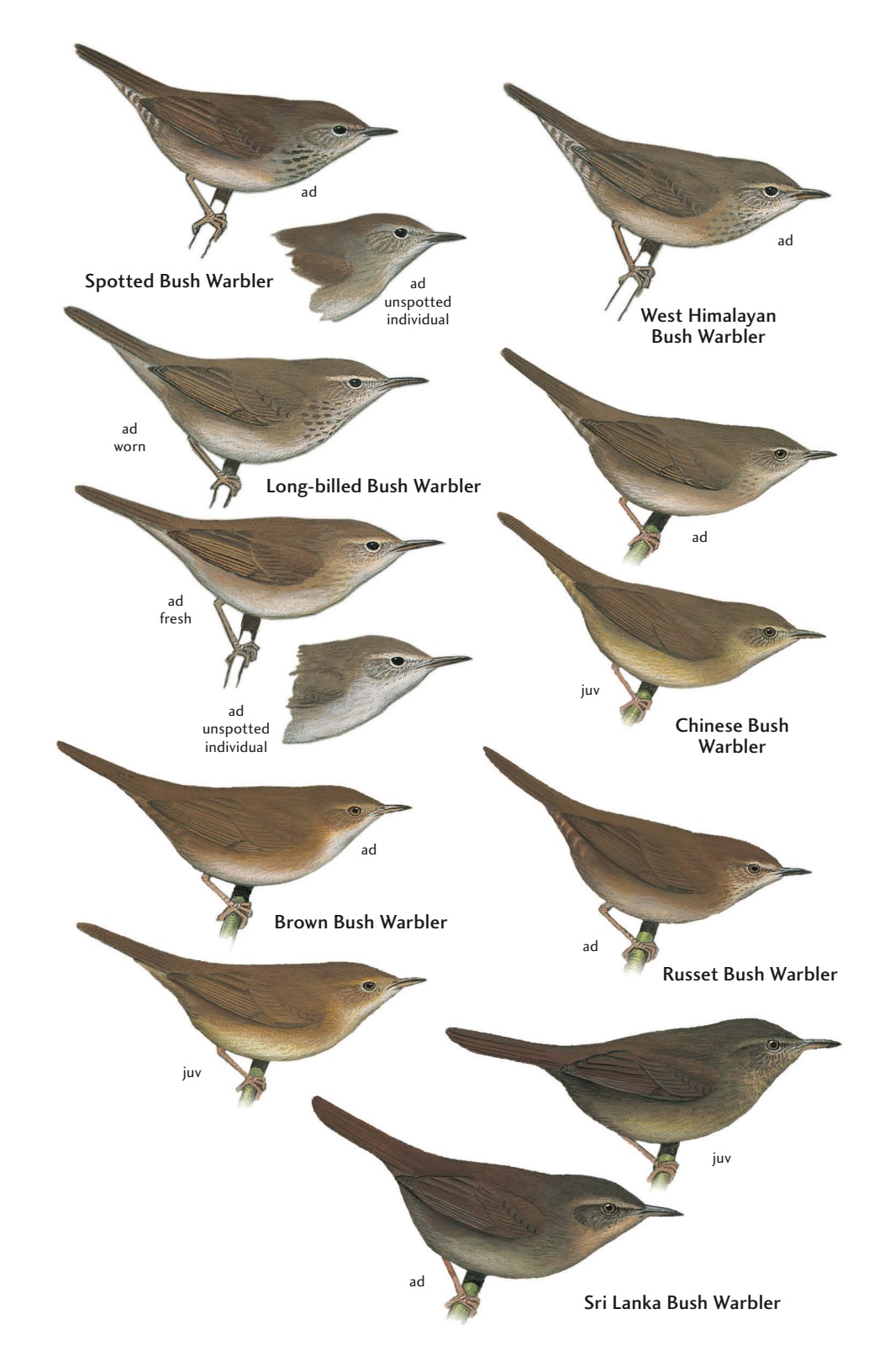
Russet Bush Warbler *Bradypterus mandelli* 13.5 cm

Resident. E Himalayas. **ID** From Spotted by longer and broader tail, less boldly marked undertail-coverts (with diffuse pale tips), indistinct and off-white supercilium (not extending beyond eye), and brown ear-coverts, sides of breast and flanks which are concolorous with upperparts. Some birds have brown spotting on lower throat and upper breast, but less prominent than most Spotted. **Voice** Song is a buzzing *zree-ut zree-ut* etc. **HH** Forest edges and secondary growth.



Sri Lanka Bush Warbler *Elaphrornis palliseri* 16 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Large, stocky bush warbler. Has dark olive-brown upperparts with rufescent cast to wings and tail, greyer ear-coverts and indistinct paler grey supercilium, orange-buff throat, and olive-grey underparts with olive-yellow wash especially to belly. Juvenile is similar, but lacks orange-buff throat: throat is washed with olive-yellow and mottled with dark olive. **Voice** Squeaky song; call is a repeated staccato *spik*. **HH** Dense forest undergrowth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Bradypterus*.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Warbler
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Brown Bush Warbler
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Russet Bush Warbler
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juv
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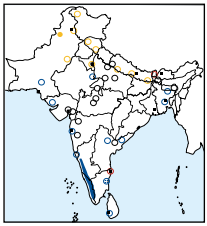
Sri Lanka Bush Warbler

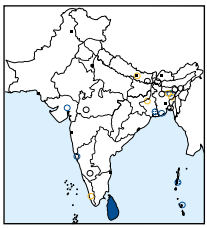
Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata* 12 cm

Winter visitor. Lowlands, mainly N subcontinent; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** From Grasshopper Warbler by bold, fine streaking (almost spotting) on throat, breast and flanks, and stronger and better defined streaking on upperparts. In addition, is smaller, has shorter tail and stouter bill, and in fresh plumage has warmer brown upperparts and warmer buff flanks, typically lacking yellow to underparts. Some can be very similar to Grasshopper: streaking on undertail-coverts is less extensive but blacker and more clear cut, and tertials are darker with clear-cut pale edges. **Voice** Calls include a sharp metallic *pit,* a faint *tack* and a shrill *cheek-cheek-cheek-cheek*. **HH** Tall grassland, and bush/grassland.



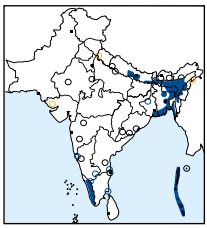
Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia* 13 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** From Rusty-rumped by olive-brown coloration to upperparts including rump and tail, and less prominent supercilium. From Lanceolated by (usually) unmarked or only lightly streaked throat and breast, and less heavily streaked upperparts (especially rump and uppertail-coverts). Some Grasshopper Warblers are as heavily streaked as a lightly streaked Lanceolated (see Lanceolated for subtle differences). Juvenile can have yellowish wash on underparts. **Voice** Calls include a hard *sit*. **HH** Tall grassland, reedbeds and paddy-fields. **AN** Common Grasshopper Warbler.



Rusty-rumped Warbler *Locustella certhiola* 13.5 cm

Winters locally in subcontinent. **ID** Larger and more robust than Grasshopper; more prominent supercilium contrasting with greyer crown, more heavily streaked mantle with rufous tinge, rufous rump and uppertail-coverts, cleaner and narrower fringes to tertials (often whiter tips), rufous olive-brown breast sides and flanks (contrasting with white of rest of underparts), and unstreaked undertail-coverts. In flight shows dark, white-tipped tail, which contrasts with rufous uppertail-coverts. Juvenile has yellowish wash to underparts, light breast-spotting, less distinct supercilium, and more olive-brown and less heavily streaked crown and mantle. **Voice** A sharp metallic *pit* and a hard, drawn-out, descending rattle *trrrrrrrrr*. **HH** Reedbeds and paddyfields. **AN** Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler.

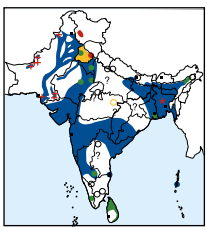


Thick-billed Warbler *Phragamaticola aedon* 19 cm

Widespread winter visitor; unrecorded in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. **ID** From large *Acrocephalus* by short, stout bill (lacking dark tip), rounded head (with crown feathers often raised), and 'plain-faced' appearance (lacks prominent supercilium and any suggestion of a darker eye-stripe). Tail appears long and graduated, and wings short. In fresh plumage, upperparts have rufous suffusion, especially to fringes of remiges, rump and uppertail-coverts (which is not apparent on Clamorous Reed Warbler), and is warmer buff on breast and flanks. **Voice** Gives a hard *shak,* tongue-clicking *tuc* and loud chattering calls. **HH** Tall grass and scrub, reeds and bushes. **TN** Formerly placed in *Acrocephalus*.

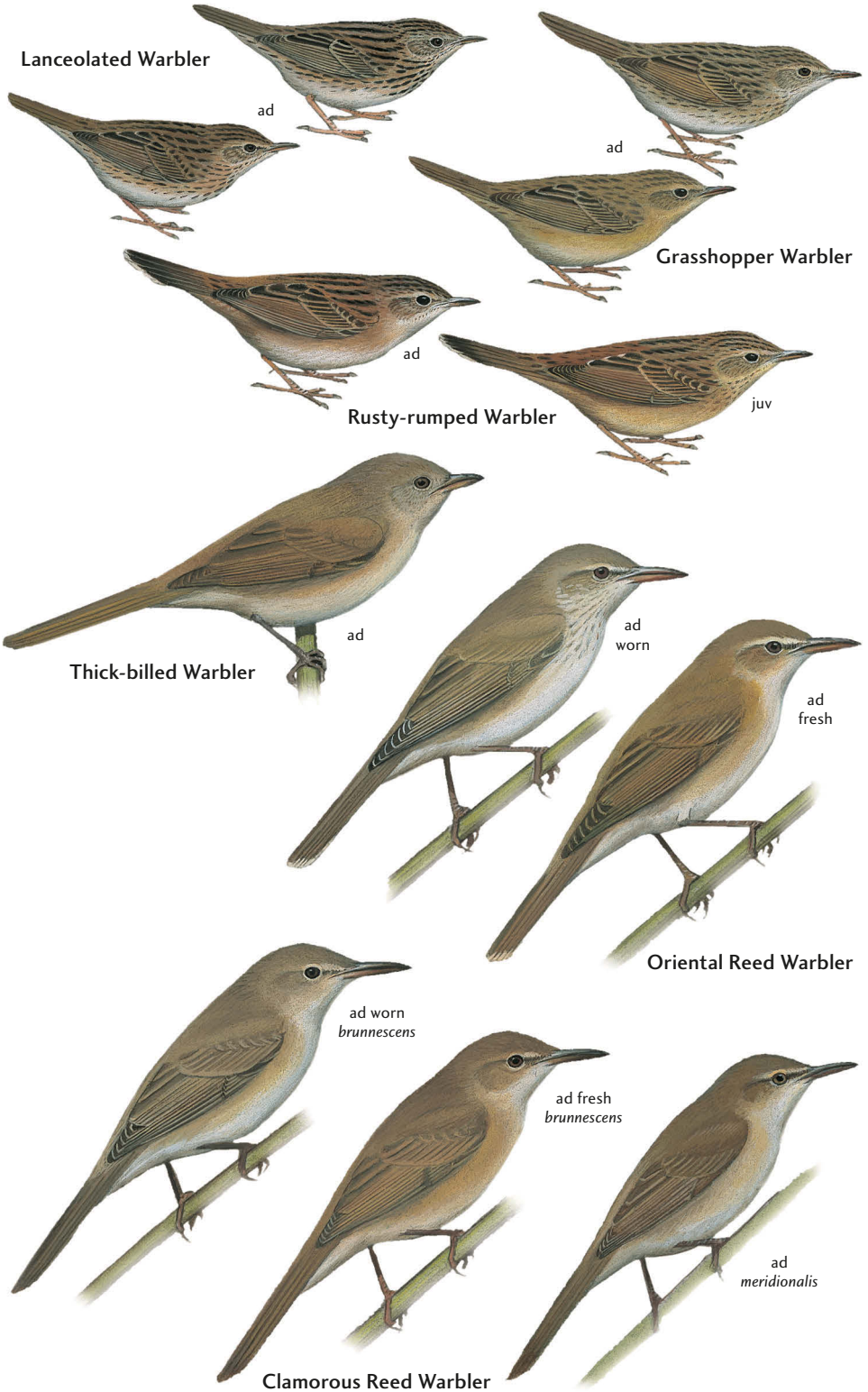
Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis* 18 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly NE India. **ID** Smaller, with shorter and squarer tail, than Clamorous. Often has streaking on sides of neck and breast, and well-defined whitish tips to outer rectrices. Streaking on underparts can, however, be lacking or not visible in the field, while a few Clamorous can also show faint streaking. Greyer above and whiter below in worn plumage; more olive above and buff on breast sides and flanks in fresh plumage. **Voice** Calls are similar to those of Clamorous. **HH** Reedbeds.



Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus* 19 cm

Breeds locally in Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka; widespread in winter. **ID** Large size, long bill, short primary projection, whitish supercilium, and lack of white at tip of tail help to distinguish from other large *Acrocephalus*. In fresh plumage, has greyish-olive upperparts and whitish underparts (with variable buff wash to breast and flanks). Worn birds have colder and greyer upperparts and whiter underparts. Sri Lankan *meridionalis* darker brown above, and often smaller. **Voice** Song is a loud repeated *karra-karra-karet-karet*; call is a loud and deep, hard *tak* or soft *karrk*. **HH** Reedbeds and bushes around wetlands.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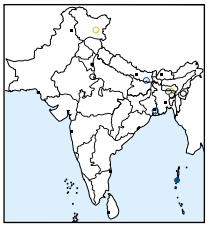
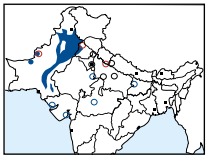
meridionalis
Clamorous Reed Warbler



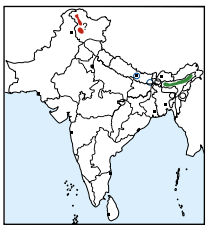
Black-browed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus bistrigiceps* 13 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Paddyfield by broader and more clear-cut supercilium and more pronounced blackish lateral crown-stripes; also has shorter tail and longer primary projection beyond tertials, and has dark grey (rather than pale brown) legs and feet. Rufescent above, with warm buff sides of breast and flanks, in fresh plumage (upperparts olive-brown in worn plumage). **Voice** Call is a soft repeated *chuk*. **HH** Tall grass and paddy-fields.



Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon* 12.5 cm

Mainly winter visitor. Pakistan and N and NW Indian plains. **ID** From other *Acrocephalus* regular in the subcontinent by combination of broad white square-ended supercilium (which broadens behind eye, and contrasts with blackish sides of crown and blackish eye-stripe) and boldly streaked rufous-brown mantle. Has distinctive habit of cocking tail above back in chat-like fashion. **Voice** Calls include a *trr-trr* and a hard *tcht*; song is varied and scratchy, although contains clear notes and trills including a subdued *lu-lu-lu-lu*. **HH** Tall reedbeds and tamarisks.

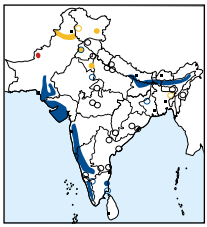


Blunt-winged Warbler *Acrocephalus concinens* 13 cm

Breeds in far W Himalayas; resident in Assam, winters in Nepal, West Bengal and Bangladesh. **ID** Subtle differences from Paddyfield are: shorter and less distinct supercilium (which typically barely extends beyond eye); absence of dark border above supercilium (sometimes not apparent on Paddyfield); lack of dark stripe behind eye (with uniform ear-coverts); longer and stouter bill (with pale lower bill lacking well-defined dark tip of most Paddyfield), and longer tail (accentuated by shorter primary projection). Confusable with Blyth's Reed; when fresh, has more rufous tones, with warm buff breast and flanks; when worn retains rufous on rump. Also appears shorter-billed than Blyth's Reed, has longer and more rounded tail, has more prominent fringes to tertials, and a shorter and more rounded primary projection. **Voice** Calls include a quiet *tcheck* and a soft drawn-out *churr*. **HH** Breeds in grassy marshes; winters in reedbeds and bushes along rivers.

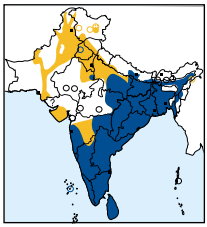
Large-billed Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orinus* 13.5 cm

Probably a passage migrant. Scattered records in India and Pakistan. **ID** Very similar to Blyth's Reed Warbler and probably not safely identifiable in the field. In fresh plumage, usually less olive, more rufous-tinged on upperparts than Blyth's Reed; underparts are strongly washed with olive-buff, sides are more olive-brown, and throat is pale creamy olive. Structurally has a longer, stronger and slightly broader bill, which tapers less towards tip, more rounded wings (the primary tips are broad and rather square-ended), and longer and more graduated tail with more pointed tail feathers. Smaller with weaker bill and feet than Clamorous Reed. **Voice** Song contains a series of scratchy wheezes, rattles and whistles given at a steady pace with much repetition. **HH** Habitat unknown.



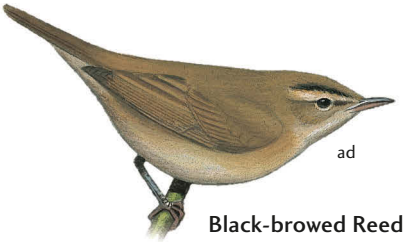
Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola* 13 cm

Widespread winter visitor; unrecorded in Sri Lanka; has bred Baluchistan. **ID** Compared with Blyth's Reed has more prominent white supercilium behind eye (often with diffuse dark upper edge), more pronounced dark eye-stripe, shorter bill with well-defined dark tip, and typically shows dark centres and contrastingly paler edges to tertials (uniform on Blyth's). Rufous cast to mantle and rump in fresh plumage, when Blyth's is more olive on upperparts, and flanks are more strongly washed with buff. Worn upperparts greyer or sandier, but retain rufous cast to rump (absent on Blyth's). Legs and feet yellowish-brown to pinkish-brown (dark grey in Blyth's). See Blunt-winged and Black-browed for differences. **Voice** Call a soft *dzak*. **HH** Reedbeds and paddy-fields.

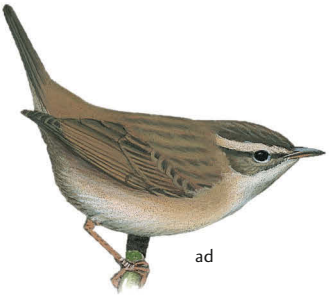


Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum* 13 cm

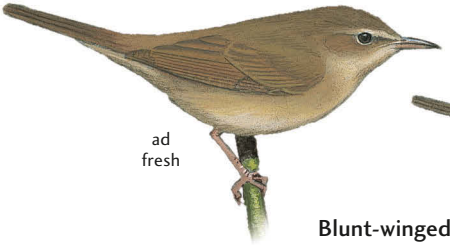
Widespread winter visitor and passage migrant. **ID** Compared with Paddyfield has longer bill (usually lacking well-defined dark tip), olive-brown to olive-grey upperparts, and uniform wings. Supercilium is comparatively indistinct and barely apparent behind eye. Has noticeable warm olive cast to upperparts and edges of remiges in fresh plumage, but in first-winter can have a slight rufous cast to the upperparts (and is closer in coloration to Paddyfield). Lacks pale sides to tail, edges to tertials, and pale panel on secondaries, which are all good features for Sykes's Warbler. **Voice** Call is a fairly soft *chek* or grating *chek-tchr*. **HH** Bushes and trees at edges of forest, cultivation and in wooded areas.



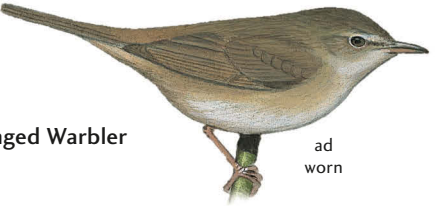
Black-browed Reed Warbler

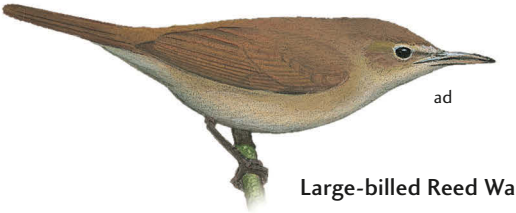


Moustached Warbler

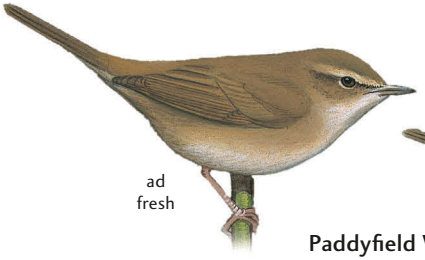


Blunt-winged Warbler



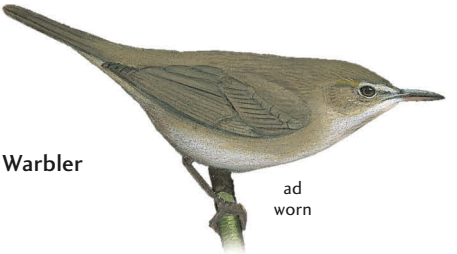


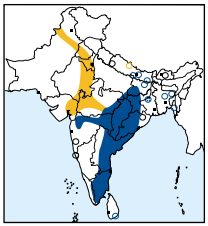
Large-billed Reed Warbler



Paddyfield Warbler

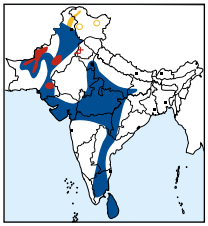
Blyth's Reed Warbler





Booted Warbler *Iduna caligata* 12 cm

Widespread in winter; unrecorded in parts of the northwest. **ID** Small, with square-ended tail, and short undertail-coverts. Often shows faint whitish edges and tip to tail and fringe to tertials. Supercilium usually reasonably distinct and square-ended behind the eye, and can be bordered above by a diffuse dark line. Typically shorter- and finer-billed than Sykes's, with more prominent supercilium, and upperparts are warmer brown; it usually appears more *Phylloscopus*-like, owing to shorter bill, and more frequently feeds on the ground. Possibly confusable with Common Chiffchaff, but lacks any greenish or olive tones, and has pale base to lower mandible and pale legs. **Voice** Hard *chur chur* call. **HH** Scrub and deciduous grass jungle. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hippolais*.

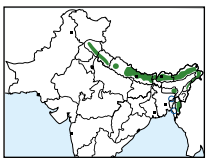


Sykes's Warbler *Iduna rama* 12.5 cm

Breeds locally in Pakistan and NW India; winters widely in the subcontinent. **ID** Typically greyer and distinctly longer-billed than Booted, and more arboreal in habits. Confusable with larger Blyth's Reed, but has more distinct supercilium behind eye, paler greyish-brown upperparts, pale sides to tail and edges to remiges, longer-looking, square-ended tail, and shorter undertail- and uppertail-coverts. **Voice** Scratchy, rattling song; rapidly repeated *tut-tut-tut* call. **HH** Breeds in tamarisks and reed-grass. Winters in open semi-desert with acacia. **TN** Formerly placed in *Hippolais and* treated as conspecific with Booted Warbler *I. caligata*.

Upcher's Warbler *Hippolais languida* 14 cm

Summer visitor to Baluchistan. **ID** From Sykes's by larger size and heavier appearance, with broader and fuller tail and longer primary projection beyond tertials. Bill is stronger-looking. Upperparts are greyer, and wings and tail often look noticeably darker than rest of upperparts. Supercilium is short and barely extends beyond eye. On breeding grounds has distinctive habit of bobbing (often fanned) tail; on passage flicks tail downwards. From Blyth's Reed by paler and greyer upperparts, shorter extension of undertail-coverts, squarer-ended and darker tail, white edges and tips to outer rectrices (conspicuous), blacker remiges and wing-coverts with prominent pale fringes in fresh plumage (especially apparent on tertials, often forming pale panel on secondaries), and browner legs and feet. Much less skulking than Blyth's Reed; frequently perches out in open. **Voice** Song very variable, with much mimicry; loud deep *chuk* call. **HH** Open bushy hillsides.

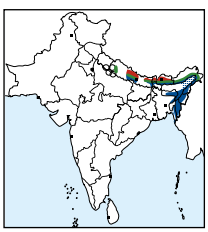


Chestnut-headed Tesia *Oligura castaneocoronata* 8 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Adult has bright chestnut 'hood', prominent white crescent behind eye, dark olive-green mantle and wings, and bright yellow underparts with olive-green sides of breast and flanks. Juvenile has dark olive upperparts with brownish cast (lacking chestnut head of adult), and dark rufous underparts. **Voice** Song an explosive *cheep-cheeu-chewit*; sharp, explosive *whit* call. **HH** Thick undergrowth in moist forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Tesia*.

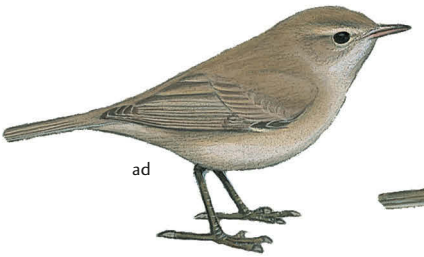
Slaty-bellied Tesia *Tesia olivea* 9 cm

Resident in E Himalayas and winters in NE Indian hills. **ID** Best told from Grey-bellied Tesia by uniform dark slate-grey underparts, and yellowish-green crown which is distinctly brighter than mantle (although some birds have duller and less contrasting crown, and may show suggestion of brighter supercilium). Additional features are less prominent black stripe behind eye, and finer bill with brighter orange or orange-red lower mandible which lacks dark tip. Juvenile is said to be similar to juvenile Grey-bellied, but with darker olive-green underparts. **Voice** Song comprises 4–6 measured whistles followed by an explosive tuneless jumble of notes; calls include a sharp *tchirik*. **HH** Thick undergrowth in moist, mainly evergreen forest.

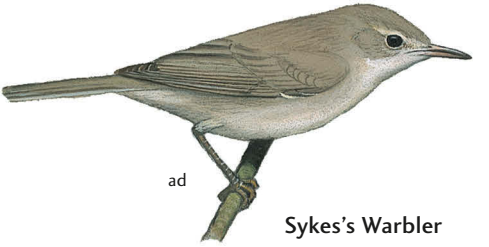


Grey-bellied Tesia *Tesia cyaniventer* 9 cm

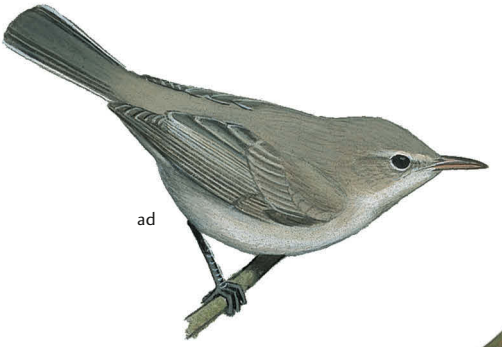
Resident in E Himalayas and winters in NE Indian hills. **ID** From Slaty-bellied by paler grey underparts, becoming almost whitish on throat and centre of belly, and by concolorous olive-green crown and mantle, with brighter lime-green supercilium. Also has more prominent black stripe behind eye, and stouter bill with dark tip and yellow basal two-thirds to lower mandible. Juvenile has dark olive-brown upperparts and olive cast to grey of underparts; like adult, has brighter green supercilium and dark eye-stripe. **Voice** Song is much slower than Slaty-bellied's and lacks its explosive jumble of notes; loud and rattling *trrrrrrk* call. **HH** Thick undergrowth in moist forest.



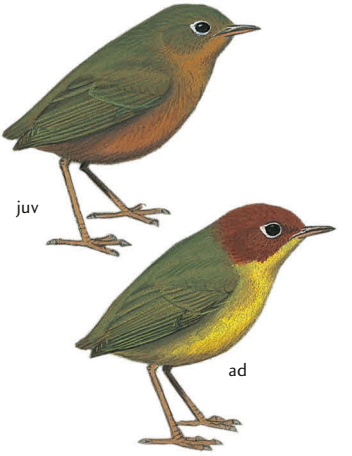
Booted Warbler



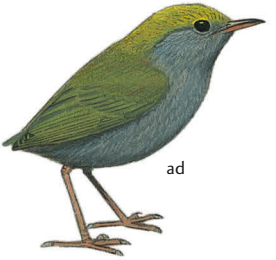
Sykes's Warbler



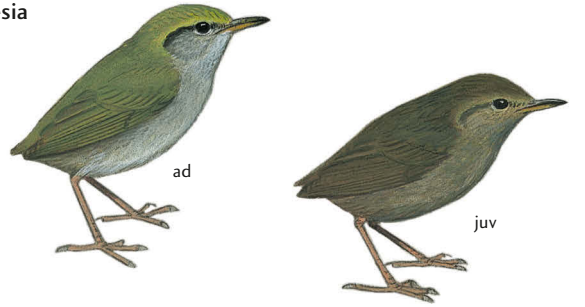
Upcher's Warbler



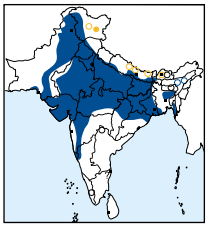
Chestnut-headed Tesia



Slaty-bellied Tesia

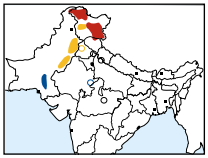


Grey-bellied Tesia



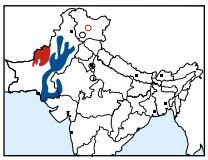
Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* 11 cm

Winter visitor. N subcontinent. **ID** Whitish or buffish supercilium, and greyish to brownish upperparts with olive-green cast to rump, wings and tail. Underparts whitish, with buffish or greyish on sides of breast and flanks. Blackish bill and legs, less prominent supercilium (with prominent whitish crescent below eye) and absence of wing-bar help separate from Greenish Warbler. **Voice** Calls include a plaintive *peu* or *hweet*. **HH** Frequently bobs tail when feeding. Forest, bushes, crops and reedbeds.



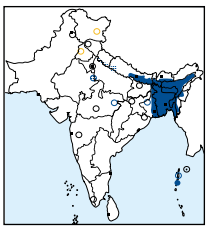
Mountain Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus sindianus* 11 cm

Pakistan and NW India; breeds in Himalayas, winters in plains and foothills. **ID** Much as Common, but lacks olive-green tinge to rump and has buffish edges of wing and tail feathers. In fresh plumage, shows warm buff coloration to ear-coverts, breast sides and flanks (Common can be similar). Bend of wing is often whitish (usually brighter yellow on Common). **Voice** Call is also different: a distinct disyllabic *swe-eet*. **HH** Breeds in bushes; winters in riverine trees and bushes.



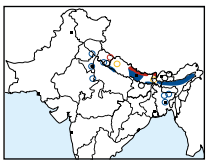
Plain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus neglectus* 10 cm

Breeds in hills of Baluchistan; winters mainly in Pakistan lowlands. **ID** Smaller than Common Chiffchaff with proportionately larger head and shorter tail; distinctive calls. Flicks wings, but does not seem to bob tail like Common. Lacks yellowish or greenish tones on upperparts (including wings), which are paler and greyer. **Voice** Song a thin, high-pitched warbling; calls include a hard *tak-tak* and low-pitched *churr*. **HH** Breeds juniper and pine forest; winters in open wooded areas.



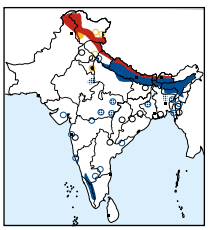
Dusky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuscatus* 11 cm

Winter visitor. Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Whitish underparts, often with buff on sides of breast and flanks, and dark brown to paler greyish-brown upperparts. Hard chacking call is diagnostic. Appears stockier than Common Chiffchaff, with more prominent supercilium and stronger dark eye-stripe, lacks olive-green edges to wing feathers and yellow at bend of wing, and has paler legs, and pale base to lower mandible. NE wintering *P. f. weigoldi* is darker above, and duskier below, and with touch of yellow on underparts in fresh plumage. **Voice** Hard *chack chack* call. **HH** Bushes and long grass.



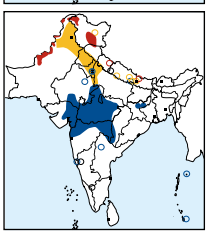
Smoky Warbler *Phylloscopus fuligiventer* 10 cm

Breeds in C and E Himalayas; winters in adjacent foothills and plains. **ID** From Dusky and Sulphur-bellied by smaller size, short-looking tail, darker sooty-olive upperparts (with greenish tinge in fresh plumage), short, indistinct supercilium (with bold white crescent below eye), and mainly dusky-olive underparts (with oily yellow centre). **Voice** Song is a monotonous *tsli-tsli-tsli-tsli-tsli*; call is a throaty *thrup thrup*. **HH** Breeds in high-altitude shrub; winters dense scrub near water.



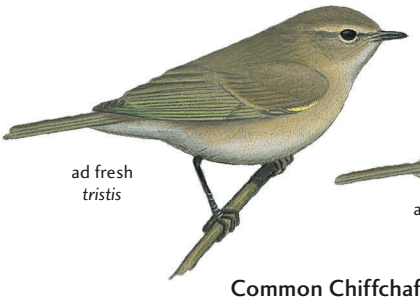
Tickell's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus affinis* 11 cm

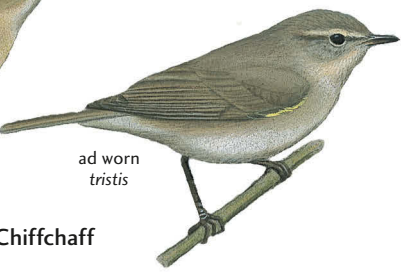
Breeds in Himalayas; widespread in winter; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** From Sulphur-bellied by greenish-brown upperparts, greenish edges to wing feathers, and brighter lemon-yellow underparts. Supercilium is similar in coloration to throat, and eye-stripe is more clearly defined than on Sulphur-bellied, contrasting with yellowish ear-coverts. Worn birds may lack greenish cast to upperparts, and have paler yellow supercilium and underparts. **Voice** Song is a short *chip…whi-whi-whi-whi*. Call is a *chit*, not as hard as Dusky's. **HH** Breeds in open country with bushes; winters in bushes at edges of forest and cultivation.



Sulphur-bellied Warbler *Phylloscopus griseolus* 11 cm

Breeds in hills of W Pakistan and W Himalayas; winters mainly in N and C India. **ID** From Tickell's by colder brownish-grey upperparts lacking any greenish tones, greyish-white edges to remiges, and duller buffish underparts (with yellow purest on belly). Supercilium is bright sulphur-yellow, brighter than throat, and has grey-brown ear-coverts and sides of breast. **Voice** Soft *quip* call, distinct from Tickell's. **HH** Breeds on stony bushy slopes; winters in rocky areas and around old buildings. Distinctive habit of climbing trees and walls/rock faces is helpful feature.

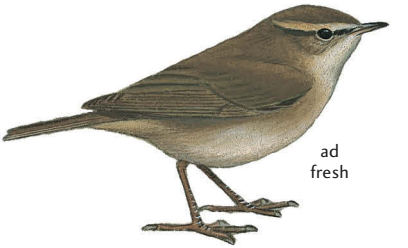




Common Chiffchaff

Mountain Chiffchaff

Plain Leaf Warbler

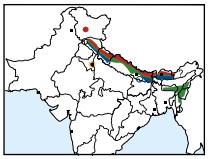


Dusky Warbler

Smoky Warbler

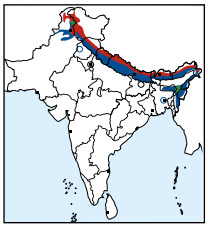
Tickell's Leaf Warbler

Sulphur-bellied Warbler



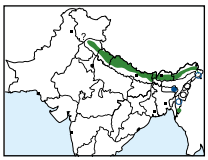
Buff-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus pulcher* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From Hume's by buffish-orange wing-bars, white on tail, yellowish supercilium, and small yellowish rump patch. Poorly defined dull yellowish centre to rear crown. *P. p. kangrae* (NW Himalayas) brighter than nominate (C and E Himalayas), with more yellowish-olive upperparts and cleaner yellow underparts. **Voice** Song a high-pitched twitter; call a short, sharp *swit*. **HH** Breeds in subalpine shrub and forest; winters broadleaved forest.



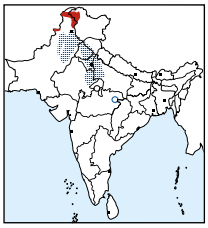
Lemon-rumped Warbler *Phylloscopus chloronotus* 9 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas; winters lower down and in NE Indian hills. **ID** From similar species by combination of broad yellowish-white supercilium and crown-stripe (contrasting with dark olive sides of crown), double yellowish-white wing-bars, well-defined yellowish (sometimes almost whitish) rump, and whitish underparts. Lacks white on tail. *P. c. simlaensis* (W Himalayas) has brighter yellowish-green upperparts, and brighter yellow supercilium and crown-stripe, compared with nominate (C and E Himalayas). **Voice** Has two songs: one is a drawn-out thin rattle followed by a series of stammering notes; the other is a stuttering series of notes with alternating pitch; high-pitched *uist* call. **HH** Forest; also secondary growth in winter.



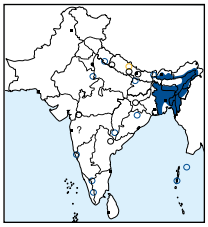
Ashy-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus maculipennis* 9 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Small with yellow rump and double yellowish wing-bars. From Lemon-rumped Warbler by greyish-white supercilium and crown-stripe, greyish throat and breast, yellow belly, and white on tail. **Voice** Song is a *ti-ti-whee-tew*; call is a short *swit*. **HH** Forest; also secondary growth in winter.



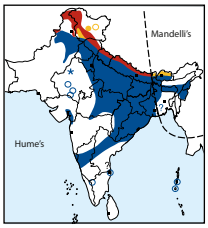
Brooks's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus subviridis* 9 cm

Breeds in Pakistan Himalayas; winters in plains and hills in Pakistan and N India. **ID** From Hume's by indistinct greenish-yellow crown-stripe, yellow supercilium (often brighter in front of eye and joining across forehead), yellow wash to cheeks and throat, brighter yellowish-olive upperparts, and (poorly defined) yellowish rump. When worn, general coloration approaches that of worn Hume's, but always with yellowish supercilium. Bill has yellowish base to lower mandible (all dark in Hume's). Lacks dark sides to crown and dark bases to wing coverts and secondaries of Lemon-rumped. **Voice** Song has distinctive sibilant trills; loud piercing *chwee* call. **HH** Summers in coniferous and mixed forest; winters in bushes and well-wooded areas.



Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* 10–11 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly E Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** In fresh plumage, has brighter greenish-olive upperparts compared with Hume's, and has yellowish-white supercilium, ear-coverts and wing-bars; further, the median-covert wing-bar is typically well defined, and underparts are very white with variable amounts of yellow. In worn plumage, close in coloration to Hume's, but has pale base to lower mandible, and legs are paler flesh-brown or greyish-brown (bill and legs are darker on Hume's). **Voice** Loud rising *chewiest* call. **HH** Groves and open forest.

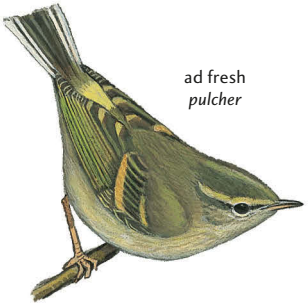


Hume's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus humei* 10–11 cm

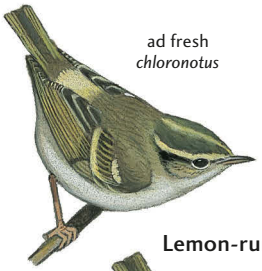
Breeds in Himalayas; winters in plains. **ID** Compared with Yellow-browed has greyish-olive upperparts, with variable yellowish-green on mantle and back, and browner crown, while supercilium, ear-coverts and greater-covert wing-bar buffish-white. Median-covert bar poorly defined, but double wing-bar can be apparent. Bill all dark, legs blackish-brown. Supercilium, wing-bars and underparts white when worn, upperparts much greyer. **Voice** Song a repeated *wesoo*, often followed by descending high-pitched *zweeeeeeeoooo*; disyllabic *whit-hoot* and sparrow-like *chwee* calls. **HH** Breeds in subalpine forest; winters in forest and secondary growth.

Mandelli's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus* (*humei*) *mandellii* 11 cm

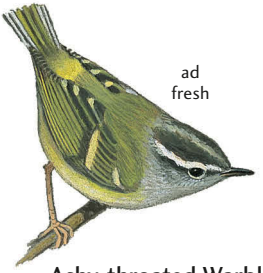
Winter visitor to NE India; passage migrant to E Himalayas. **ID** Has darker olive-green upperparts than Hume's, with dirty yellowish-white supercilium and underparts; the median-covert bar is poorly defined as in Hume's but shows more distinct (but still diffuse) pale crown-stripe, and lateral crown-stripes are darker than mantle. **Voice** Strikingly disyllabic repeated *tjis-ip* call. **HH** Forest.



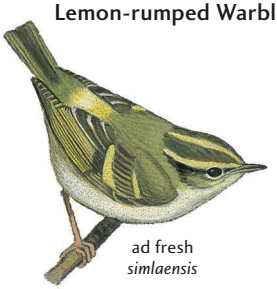
Buff-barred Warbler

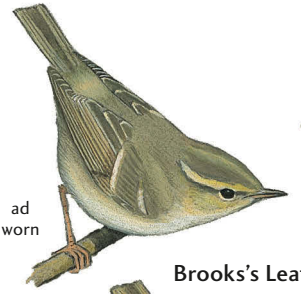


Lemon-rumped Warbler

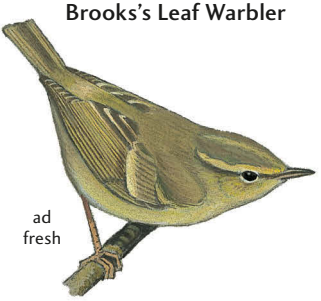


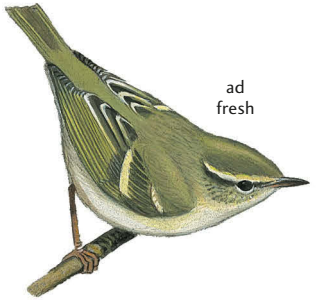
Ashy-throated Warbler



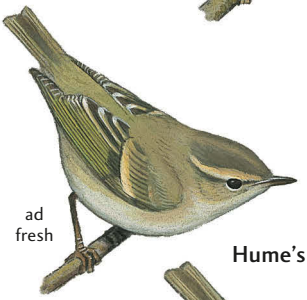


Brooks's Leaf Warbler

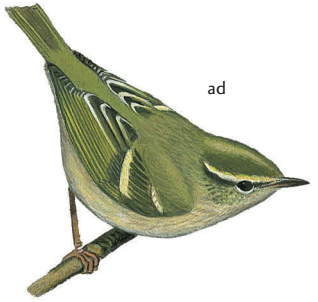




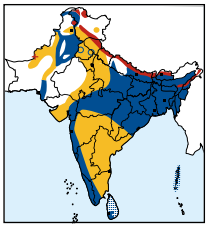
Yellow-browed Warbler



Hume's Leaf Warbler

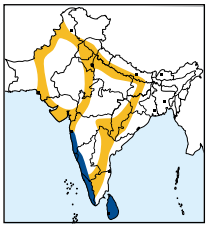


Mandelli's Leaf Warbler



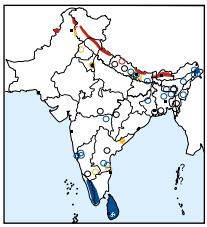
Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides* 9.5–10.5 cm

Breeds in Himalayas and NE Indian hills; widespread on passage and in winter. **ID** Variable *Phylloscopus* with uniform crown, fine wing-bars, and distinctive call. In fresh plumage *P. t. ludlowi* and *P. t. viridanus* (W Himalayas, and more widely in winter) have olive-green upperparts, a single white wing-bar, yellowish-white supercilium, and whitish underparts with faint yellowish suffusion. When worn, upperparts are duller and greyer and underparts whiter. Nominate (C and E Himalayas and NE) has darker oily green upperparts (with darker crown), mottled ear-coverts, dusky underparts with diffuse oily yellow wash, and darker bill (with orange at base of lower mandible); often shows trace of second (median-covert) wing-bar. Nominate can appear very similar to Large-billed Leaf, and best told by call. **Voice** *P. t. viridanus* call is a loud, slurred and abrupt *chi-weee;* song is a loud, repeated *chi-chi-chi-chiwee-chiweee*. *P. t. trochiloides* call is *chis-weet* and song is *chis-weet, chis-weet*. **HH** Breeds in forest and subalpine shrubberies; winters in well-wooded areas.



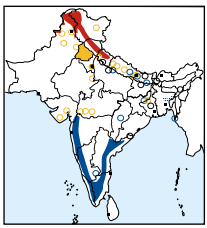
Green Warbler *Phylloscopus* (*trochiloides*) *nitidus* 10–11 cm

Widespread passage migrant and winters in W Ghats and Sri Lanka. **ID** In fresh plumage, upperparts are a brighter and purer green than Greenish, and has one, sometimes two, slightly broader and yellower wing-bars, while supercilium and cheeks are noticeably yellow and underparts have a much stronger yellow suffusion. When worn, upperparts are duller, although still brighter than on Greenish, and supercilium and underparts retain a yellowish wash. **Voice** Trisyllabic *chis-ru-weet* call. **HH** Winters in dense forest, acacia groves, mango groves, wooded gardens and orchards.



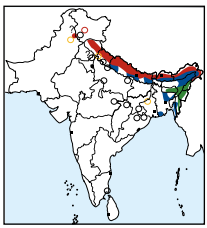
Large-billed Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus magnirostris* 13 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; winters in NE and S India, and Sri Lanka. **ID** From *viridanus* and *ludlowi* subspecies of Greenish (where ranges overlap in W Himalayas and peninsula) by larger size and stockier appearance; larger and mainly dark bill; darker oily green upperparts (with darker crown); more striking yellowish-white supercilium, and broader dark eye-stripe with greyish mottling on ear-coverts. Underparts tend to look rather dirty, often with diffuse streaking and oily yellow wash (but can be whiter and much as on Greenish). Has yellowish-white greater-covert wing-bar, often with a trace of second (median-covert) bar. More similar to nominate Greenish and best told by distinctive call and song. Also is larger, has larger bill with more pronounced hooked-tip, and has more prominent supercilium and broader dark eye-stripe. Some are very similar in appearance to nominate Greenish. **Voice** Clear, whistled, upward-inflected *der-tee* call; loud song, five syllables in three descending notes. **HH** Breeds in forest along mountain streams; winters in evergreen sholas.



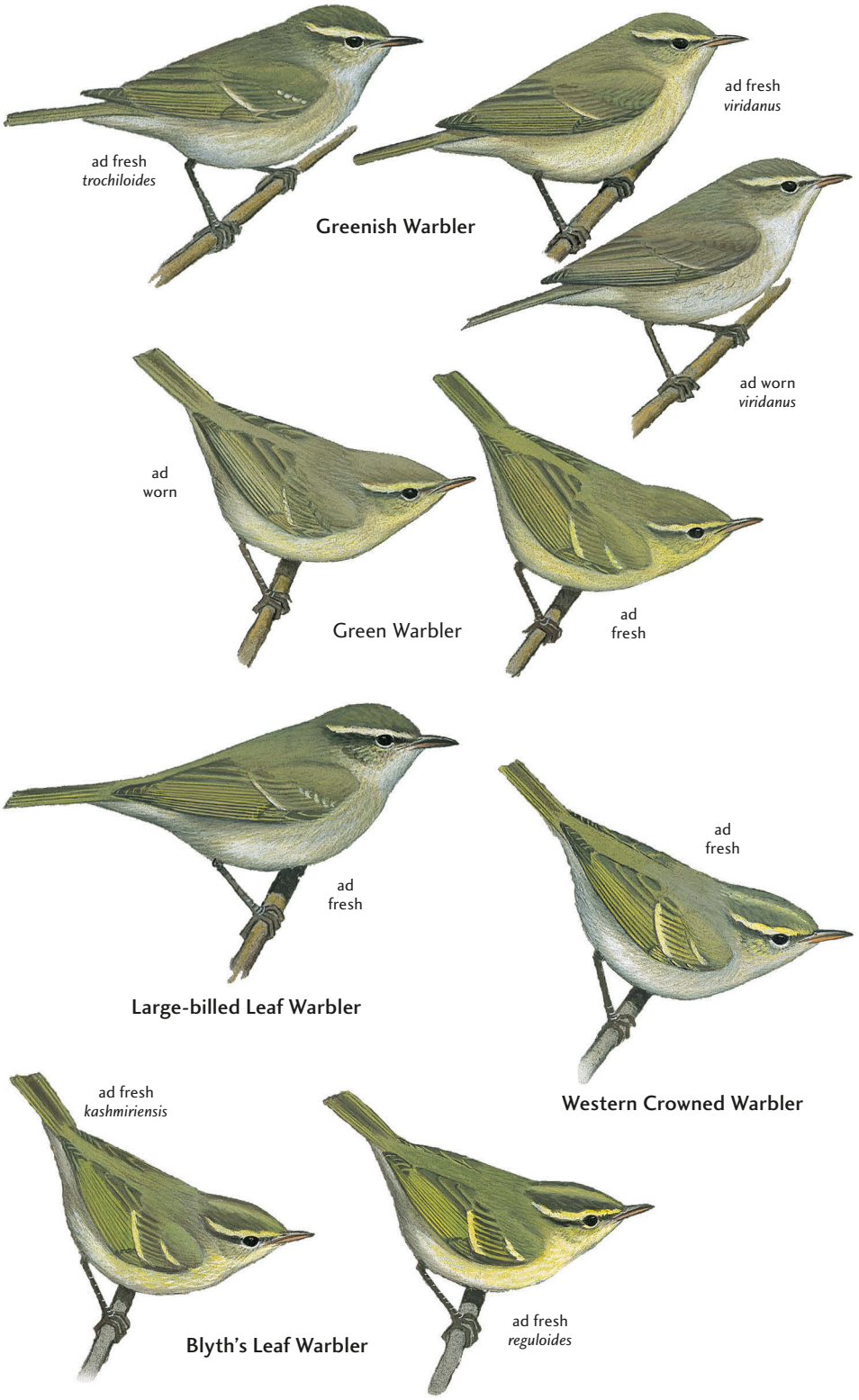
Western Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus occipitalis* 11 cm

Breeds in N Pakistan hills and W Himalayas; winters in India, Nepal and Bangladesh. **ID** Very similar to Blyth's Leaf but appears larger and more elongated, with larger and longer-looking bill. Upperparts are generally duller greyish-green, and whitish underparts are strongly suffused with grey. Median- and greater-covert wing-bars are less prominent and head pattern tends to be less striking (supercilium and crown stripe are duller and contrast less with dusky olive sides to crown (which may be darker towards nape). Some birds are very similar in appearance. **Voice** Constantly repeated *chit-weei* call; songs consists of several calls run together. **HH** Breeds in coniferous and mixed forest; winters in moist deciduous and evergreen broadleaved forest.



Blyth's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus reguloides* 11 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; winters in foothills and adjacent plains. **ID** Very similar to Western Crowned. Head pattern tends to be more striking, with yellower supercilium and crown-stripe, and darker lateral crown-stripes (which can be almost black). Underparts generally have distinct yellowish wash, and upperparts are a darker and purer green. Wing-bars are more prominent (being broader, and often divided by a dark panel across greater coverts). *P. r. kashmiriensis* (W Himalayas) tends to have brighter yellowish-green upperparts than the nominate (C Himalayas), and lateral crown-stripes tend to be less dark; *P. r. assamensis* (NE) tends to be a darker green on the upperparts. **Voice** Constantly repeated *kee-kew-i* call; song is a trill, *ch-ti-ch-ti-chi-ti-ch-ti-chee*. **HH** Breeds in broadleaved, coniferous and mixed forest; winters in open forest and forest edges.


ad fresh
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Greenish Warbler
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Western Crowned Warbler
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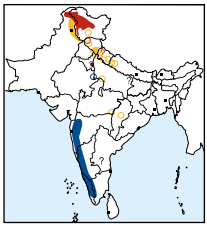
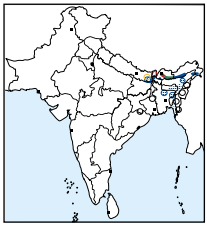
Blyth's Leaf Warbler
ad fresh
reguloides



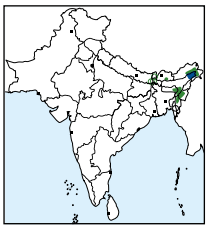
Tytler's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tytleri* 11 cm

Breeds in W Himalayas; winters mainly in Western Ghats. **ID** From Greenish by long, slender, mainly dark bill, shorter tail, lack of wing-bar (although this can be lacking on worn-plumaged Greenish), and different call. Supercilium tends to look finer, and is offset by rather broad and well-defined dark olive lores and eye-stripe. In fresh plumage, has dark greenish cast to upperparts, supercilium is yellowish-white, and has variable yellowish wash to ear-coverts and underparts. In worn plumage, supercilium and underparts are whitish, and upperparts are greyer. **Voice** Call is a double *y-it;* song is a distinctive, regularly repeated *pi-tsi-pi-tsu*. **HH** Breeds in coniferous forest and subalpine shrubberies; winters in broadleaved forest.



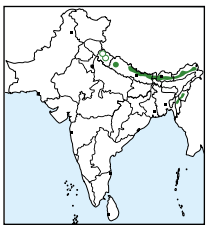
Yellow-vented Warbler *Phylloscopus cantator* 10 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From Blyth's Leaf by yellow throat, upper breast and undertail-coverts contrasting with white lower breast and belly. In addition, is smaller in size, has brighter yellow supercilium and crown-stripe contrasting with darker lateral crown-stripes, and has brighter yellowish-green upperparts. **Voice** Song consists of several single notes on the same pitch and ending in two slurred notes: *seep, seep, seep to-you* with the accent on *you*; call is a double note softer than those of other *Phylloscopus* with the accent on the second note. **HH** Breeds in evergreen broadleaved forest; winters also in deciduous forest.



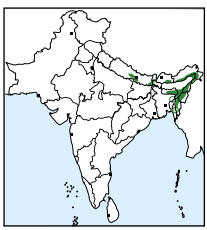
Rufous-faced Warbler *Abroscopus albogularis* 8 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Readily told by pale rufous face (lacking prominent eye-ring), buff crown (with blackish lateral crown-stripes), blackish mottling on throat, yellow band across breast, whitish rump, uniform wings (lacking wing-bars), and lack of white on tail. **Voice** Sibilant, high-pitched repetitive whistles *titiriiii, titiriiii titiriiii* etc. **HH** Bamboo.



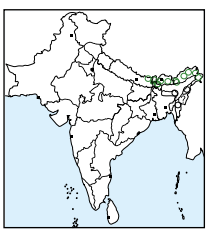
Black-faced Warbler *Abroscopus schisticeps* 9 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Striking with yellow supercilium and throat and black mask. Grey crown and nape, and uniform olive-green upperparts lacking any wing-bar. Superficially resembles Yellow-bellied Fantail but has much shorter tail. Nominate (C Himalayas) has yellow extending to breast and flanks. *A. s. flavimentalis* (NE) has yellow of underparts restricted to throat. **Voice** Alarm call is a rapid, high-pitched *tz-tz-tz-tz-tz*. **HH** Moist broadleaved forest.



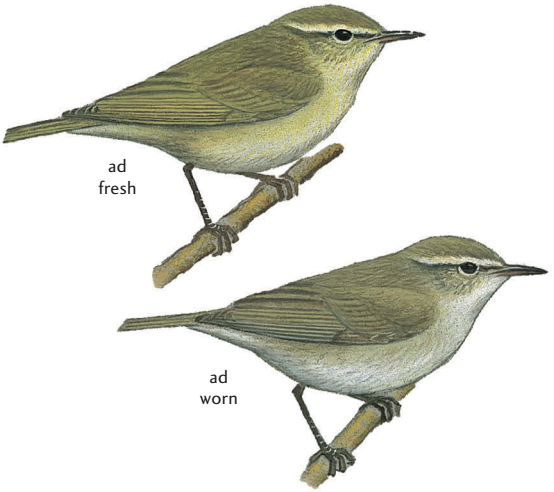
Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris* 9 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Dull-coloured compared with *Seicercus* and other *Abroscopus* warblers. Has white supercilium, dark crown and eyestripe, yellowish-olive upperparts, white throat and yellow rest of underparts. Confusable only with Grey-hooded, and best distinguished by white throat, yellowish-olive (rather than grey) mantle, and lack of white on tail. Separated from all *Phylloscopus* warblers by combination of rather long bill, brownish-grey on crown, white throat and yellow rest of underparts, and by fairly narrow tail, lacking prominent undertail-coverts, giving distinctive profile. Tail appears pale brownish-buff from below. **Voice** Song a halting ditty of six notes, ascending at the end; call a *chrrt chrrt chrrt*. **HH** Bamboo.

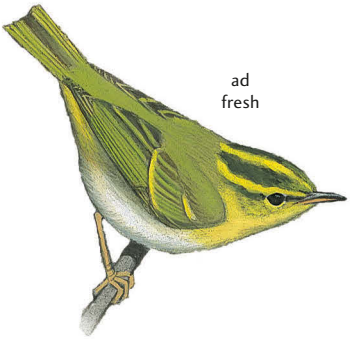


Broad-billed Warbler *Tickellia hodgsoni* 10 cm

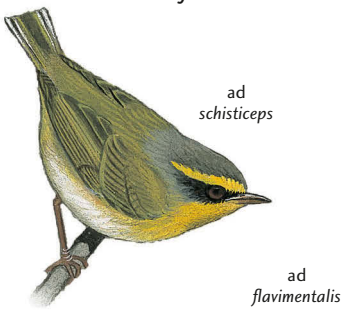
Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** A distinctive warbler with chestnut forehead and crown, greyish-white supercilium and dark grey eye-stripe, greyish ear-coverts, throat and breast, and yellow belly, flanks and vent. Has slightly yellower rump. Chestnut crown, grey throat and breast, and white on tail are best features to separate it from Yellow-bellied. Very similar in plumage to Mountain Tailorbird; best distinguished by shorter (and broader) bill, darker and more extensive chestnut on crown, uniform olive-green mantle and nape (lacking grey nape of Mountain Tailorbird), and greyish-white supercilium. **Voice** Song is series of very thin, high-pitched whistles, repeated at intervals; also rapid, rather metallic jumbled notes. **HH** Understorey in evergreen broadleaved forest.

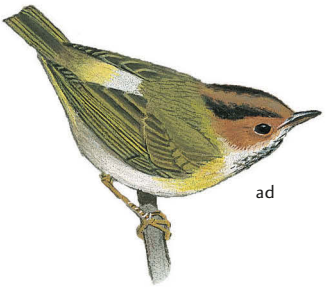


Tytler's Leaf Warbler



Yellow-vented Warbler

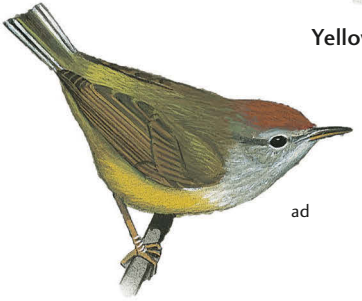




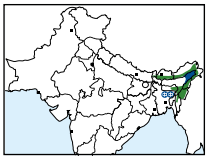
Rufous-faced Warbler

Black-faced Warbler

Yellow-bellied Warbler

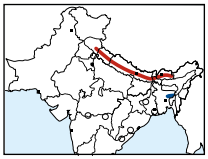


Broad-billed Warbler



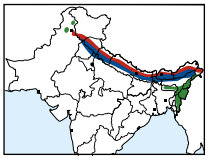
White-spectacled Warbler *Seicercus affinis* 11–12 cm

Resident. Mainly E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Has white eye-ring. From Grey-cheeked Warbler by yellow chin and upper throat, clearer grey supercilium and crown-stripe contrasting with well-defined dark grey lateral crown-stripes, greenish (rather than grey) lower ear-coverts, and yellowish lores. Can show touch of yellow on anterior edge of white eye-ring, which is not apparent on Grey-cheeked. **Voice** Sharp *che-wheet* call. Song is a combination of sweet variable phrases each consisting of 5–8 rapidly delivered notes. **HH** Dense, moist broadleaved evergreen forest.



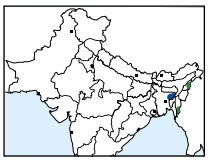
Green-crowned Warbler *Seicercus burkii* 11 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; winters lower down in same hills, also in Bangladesh and E India. **ID** Has yellow eye-ring, yellowish-green face and green crown. Compared with Whistler's, sides to crown are blacker, has narrower eye-ring (broken at rear), and usually lacks wing-bar. See Whistler's for further information. **Voice** Song is a series of sweet, staccato short phrases with some trills, not slurred like Whistler's. **HH** Probably summers 1,550–2,050 m, winters down to 150 m. Forest understorey and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with the next two species under the name Golden-spectacled Warbler *S. burkii.*



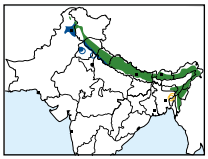
Whistler's Warbler *Seicercus whistleri* 11–12 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Very similar to Green-crowned; dark sides of crown are not as black and are diffuse on forehead, and yellow eye-ring is broader at rear. Generally, upperparts are duller greyish-green, underparts are duller yellow, and wing-bar is usually more distinct. Shows more white in outertail feathers; there is much white on basal half of outerweb of outermost tail feathers (generally lacking white in this area in Green-crowned). **Voice** Song is a simple *witchu-witchu* and is best means of separation. **HH** Probably summers 2,130–3,800 m, winters below 2,135 m. Forest understorey, also in high altitude shrub in summer.



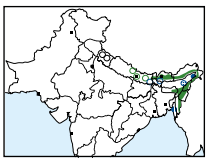
Grey-crowned Warbler *Seicercus tephrocephalus* 11–12 cm

Resident or summer visitor. NE Indian hills. **ID** Much as Green-crowned in appearance, but crown and supercilium greyer (less olive). Sides of crown are blacker than in Whistler's, lacks prominent wing-bar, and has narrower eye-ring (broken at rear). **Voice** Song is sweet and clear with many trills, rather similar to Green-crowned but without the slurring, warbling quality of Whistler's. **HH** Forest understorey.



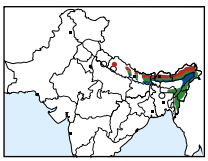
Grey-hooded Warbler *Phylloscopus xanthoschistos* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From *Seicercus* warblers by combination of greyish-white supercilium, and grey crown and mantle. Has diffuse pale grey central crown-stripe, and darker lateral crown-stripes. *P. x. albosuperciliaris* (W Himalayas) has paler grey lateral crown-stripes and mantle (with brownish cast) compared with forms in the E Himalayas and NE (e.g. nominate), which are purer and darker grey in these areas, with noticeable contrast between grey of mantle and green of back. **Voice** Song is brief, incessantly repeated high-pitched warble, *ti-tsi-ti-wee-tee*. **HH** Forest and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Seicercus.*



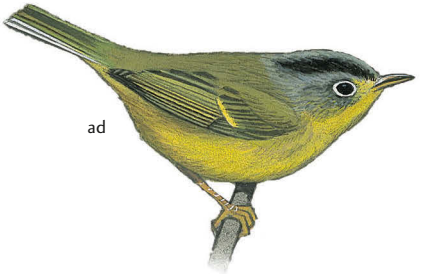
Grey-cheeked Warbler *Seicercus poliogenys* 10 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Has prominent white eye-ring as White-spectacled, but has whitish chin and upper throat, darker grey ear-coverts, and more uniform dark grey head, with poorly defined crown-stripe and diffuse dark sides to crown. Also yellow wing-bar is more pronounced. **Voice** Song similar to White-spectacled's but less melodic, more *Phylloscopus*-like and with notes more slurred together. **HH** Evergreen broadleaved forest and bamboo.



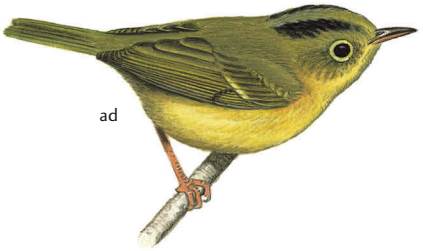
Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps* 9.5 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From other *Seicercus* warblers by combination of small size, chestnut crown with diffuse dark brown lateral crown-stripes, bright lemon-yellow rump, grey sides of head with white eye-ring, grey throat and upper breast contrasting with white lower breast and belly, and bright yellow flanks. Grey on sides of head, double yellow wing-bar, prominent yellow rump and lack of white supercilium are the best features for separation from Broad-billed Warbler. **Voice** 5–7 note song, extremely high-pitched, sibilant, and slightly undulating. **HH** Mainly oak forest.



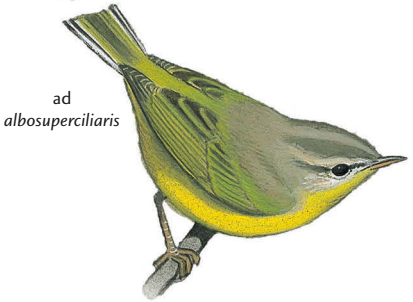
White-spectacled Warbler

Green-crowned Warbler

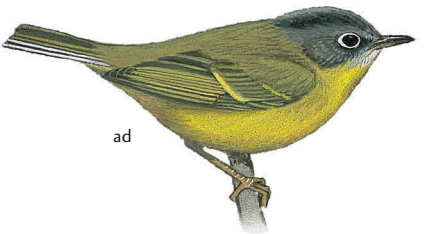


Whistler's Warbler

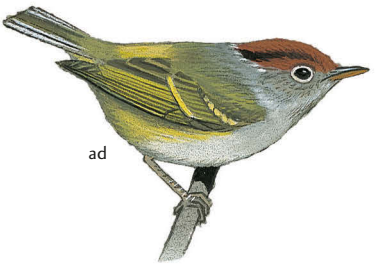
Grey-crowned Warbler



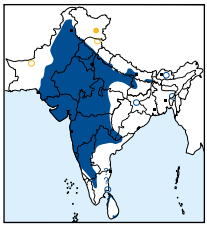
Grey-hooded Warbler



Grey-cheeked Warbler

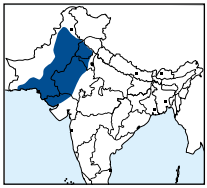


Chestnut-crowned Warbler



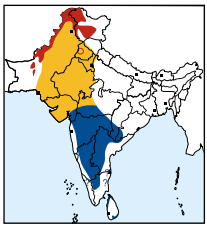
Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* 13 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Has brownish-grey upperparts, dull whitish underparts (can have pinkish flush to breast in fresh plumage), slate-grey crown (greyer and slightly darker than mantle), and darker lores and ear-coverts (forming diffuse mask). Bill is blackish and legs and feet grey. Can show suggestion of paler supercilium and pale buffish fringes to tertials and secondaries in fresh plumage. **Voice** A soft, low-pitched, rather scratchy warbling song and dry rattle, the two often run together. **HH** Scrub and deciduous woodland.



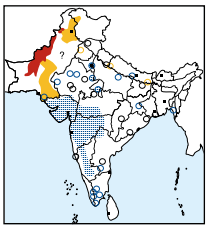
Desert Whitethroat *Sylvia* (*curruca*) *minula* 12.5 cm

Passage migrant and winter visitor to NW subcontinent. **ID** Slightly smaller than Lesser, with finer bill. Has paler, sandy grey-brown upperparts with sandy fringes to coverts and edges to secondaries forming sandy panel on wing. Tail slightly darker grey-brown than rump/uppertail-coverts, but shows little contrast (unlike Lesser). Forehead and crown paler grey than in Lesser, and usually lacks darker 'mask', giving 'plain-faced' appearance. Underparts often washed with warm buff (more than in Lesser). **Voice** Pleasant, rather quiet and varied warbling song. **HH** Habitat as Lesser.



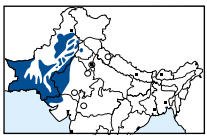
Hume's Whitethroat *Sylvia althaea* 13.5 cm

Breeds in W Himalayas; winter visitor to C and S India. **ID** Slightly larger, with larger and stouter bill, than Lesser, with darker, purer grey mantle, and darker grey crown with blackish ear-coverts; on some whole crown can be dark grey (resulting in dark-hooded appearance), and can show strong greyish wash to sides of breast. **Voice** Song is a loud continuous bubbling warble. **HH** Breeds in dry scrub; winter habitat as *S. curruca*. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Lesser Whitethroat *S. curruca.*



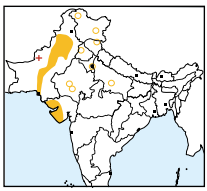
Orphean Warbler *Sylvia hortensis* 15 cm

Summer visitor to Pakistan; winters mainly in India. **ID** Larger and bigger-billed than Lesser; more ponderous movements, and heavier appearance in flight. Adult has blackish crown, pale grey mantle, blackish tail, and pale iris, white in male (always dark in Lesser). First-year has crown concolorous with mantle, darker grey ear-coverts and dark iris, and can appear similar to Lesser. Orphean often shows darker-looking uppertail, eye-ring is absent or indistinct, and has greyish centres and pale fringes to undertail-coverts; these features variable and difficult to observe in the field. **Voice** Strong, varied thrush-like warbling song. Breeds on bush-covered hillsides; winters in scrub and groves. **TN** Race in region is sometimes considered to be a separate species, Eastern Orphean Warbler *S. crassirostris.*



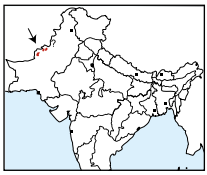
Asian Desert Warbler *Sylvia nana* 11.5 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Small, very distinctive *Sylvia*. In all plumages has sandy-brown upperparts, rufous rump and uppertail-coverts, and rufous central tail feathers. Iris, base to bill, and legs and feet are yellowish. **Voice** Pleasant *tiri-tityu-tyu-ty-tyuyu* song. **HH** Scrub in desert and rocky hills.



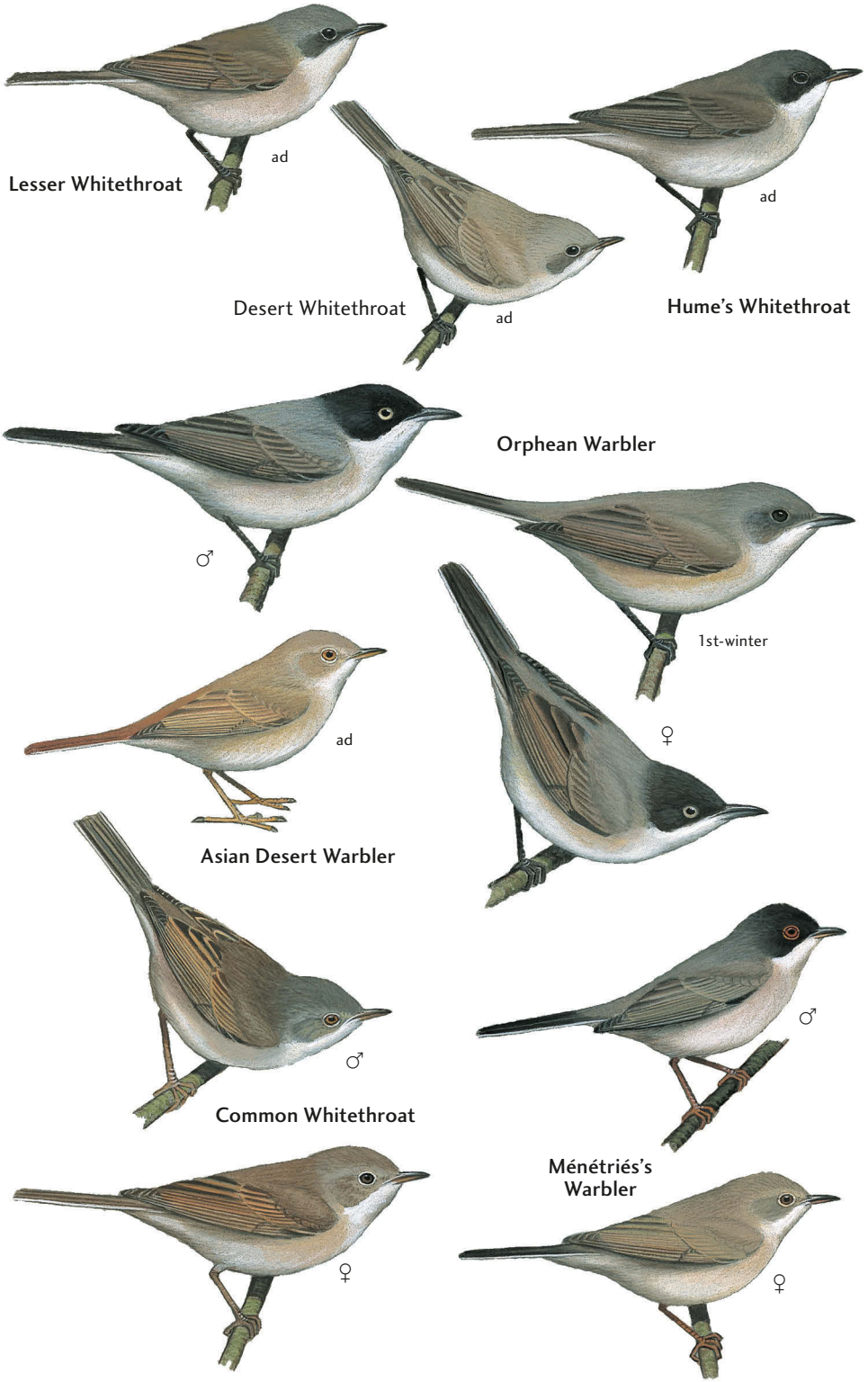
Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis* 14 cm

Passage migrant in Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Larger and longer-tailed than Lesser, with broad, well-defined, sandy-brown to pale rufous-brown fringes to greater coverts and tertials, pale base to lower mandible, and orange-brown to pale brown (not grey) legs and feet. Adult male has grey crown and ear-coverts merging into greyish mantle; breast and flanks can show pinkish wash, and has reddish-brown iris. Adult female and first-winter have pale grey-brown crown, ear-coverts and mantle, and iris is dull brown or olive. **Voice** Scratchy warbling song. **HH** Crops and shrub.



Ménétriés's Warbler *Sylvia mystacea* 12 cm

Summer visitor. Baluchistan. **ID** Small size, with long tail. Male has blackish hood, reddish-brown eye-ring, blue-grey upperparts, and pinkish wash to throat and breast, with white submoustachial line. Some (younger?) males have whitish underparts and paler grey head (showing less contrast with mantle). Female/first-winter has rather uniform sandy grey-brown upperparts and whitish underparts; iris is yellowish-brown (female) or dark/olive-brown (first-winter). **Voice** Dry chattering warbling song. **HH** Scrub in semi-desert.


Lesser Whitethroat
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Desert Whitethroat
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Orphean Warbler
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Asian Desert Warbler
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Common Whitethroat
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Ménétriés's Warbler
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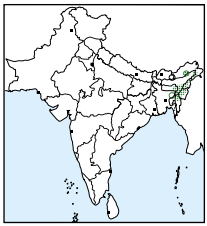
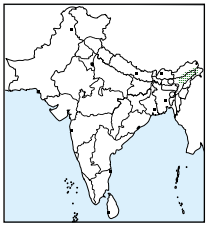


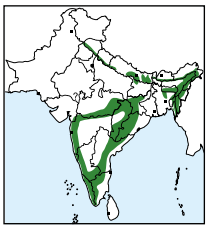
Spot-throated Babbler *Pellorneum albiventre* 14 cm

Resident. E Himalayan foothills, hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Buff-breasted Babbler by white throat with faint arrowhead-shaped grey spotting (which can be lacking). *P. a. ignotum* (E Himalayas) has grey lores and supercilium, greyish breast band, well-defined white belly, lacks rufescent cast to upperparts, and has short and rounded tail, which further help separate from Buff-breasted. Nominate (S and E of Brahmaputra) has browner face, more uniform and warmer brown underparts (with diffuse white belly), and has a longer tail, compared with *ignotum*, and is closer in coloration to Buff-breasted. **Voice** Rich thrush-like song. **HH** Scrub and secondary growth.



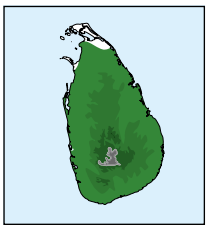
Marsh Babbler *Pellorneum palustre* 15 cm

Resident. NE India and formerly Bangladesh. **ID** Marsh-dwelling babbler with white throat, grey supercilium to back of eye, white eye-ring (not depicted) and bold brown streaking on breast and flanks. Superficially resembles Puff-throated Babbler, but smaller, lacks rufous crown and buff supercilium, and has rufous-buff wash to sides of throat, breast and flanks. **Voice** Loud *chi-chew* call. **HH** Reedbeds and tall grassland. Globally threatened.



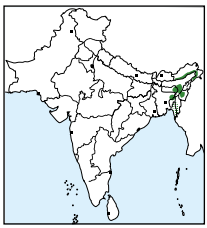
Puff-throated Babbler *Pellorneum ruficeps* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, hills of India and Bangladesh. **ID** Comparatively long-tailed. Has rufous or chestnut crown, prominent buff supercilium, white throat (often puffed out), and heavily streaked whitish underparts. Considerable subspecies variation in colour of crown (rufous-brown to chestnut), ear-coverts (buff and concolorous with supercilium to chestnut and concolorous with crown), darkness and size of brown spotting, colour of mantle (olive-brown to rufous-brown), and whether the mantle and sides of neck are unstreaked or streaked. **Voice** Calls include a plaintive whistled *ne-menue*. **HH** Forest undergrowth and secondary growth.



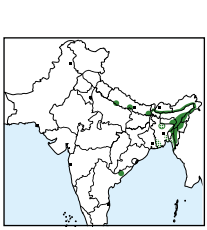
Brown-capped Babbler *Pellorneum fuscocapillus* 16 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Has brownish-black crown and nape with faint buff shaft streaking, dark olive-brown upperparts, and deep cinnamon sides of head and underparts. *P. f. babaulti* (dry zone lowlands) has paler cinnamon-buff sides of head and underparts and paler greyish-brown upperparts compared with subspecies in hills (nominate) and wet zone lowlands (*P. f. scortillum*). **Voice** Like Puff-throated's. **HH** Forest undergrowth and thick scrub.



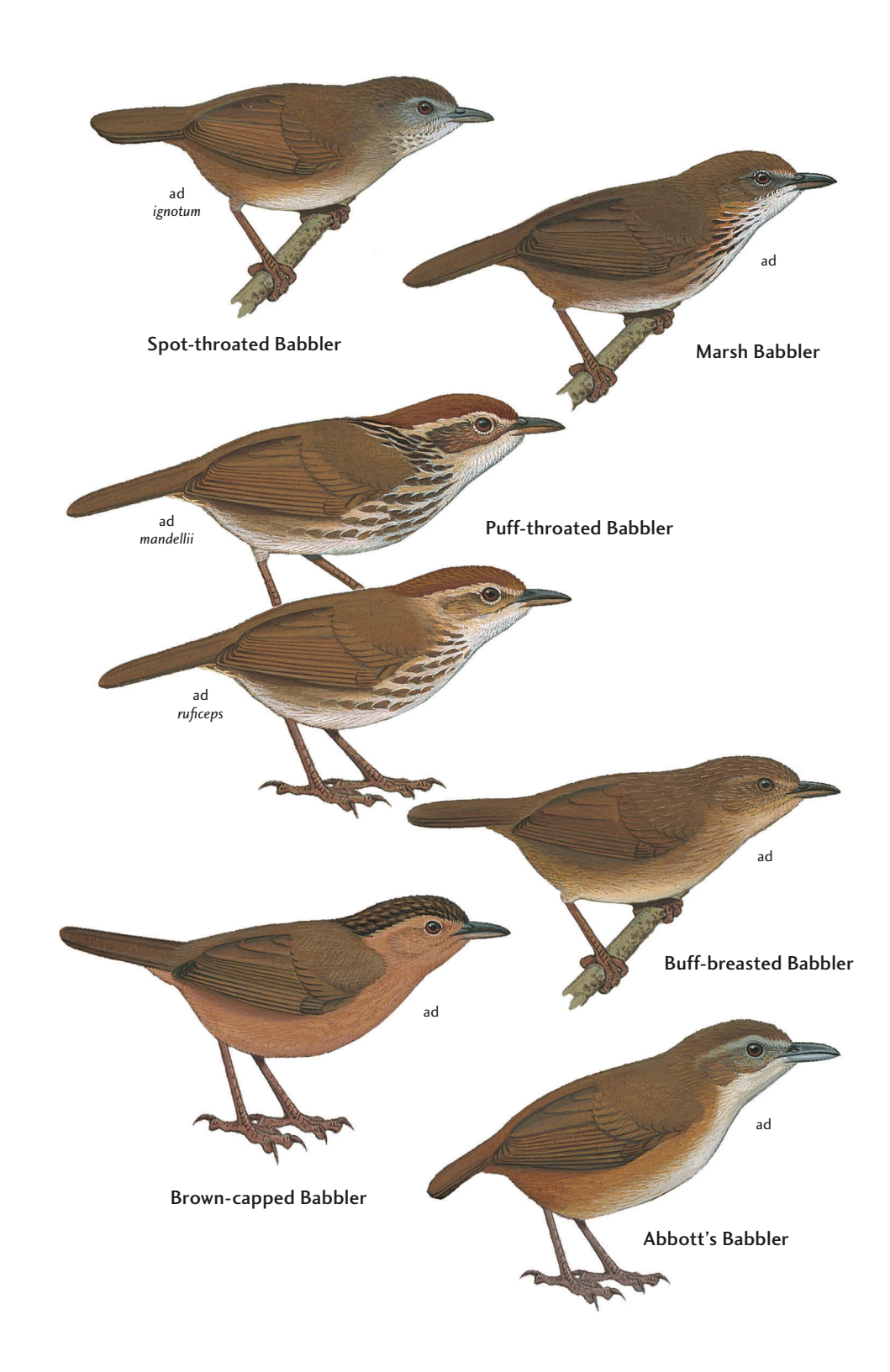
Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli* 15 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** A rather plain, well-proportioned babbler with dark olive-brown upperparts with slight rufescent cast, and mainly buff underparts except for white belly. More neatly proportioned, with smaller head and proportionately longer tail than Abbott's, with smaller bill, buff lores, throat and breast (some with quite noticeable brown streaking), and has duller buff to olive-brown flanks and darker olive-brown upperparts. Also lacks rufous coloration to uppertail-coverts and sides of tail. Confusable with the more similarly sized Spot-throated, but has buff lores, faint whitish shaft streaking on more rufescent crown, buff-coloured throat and breast, and square-ended tail (which is longer than Himalayan *P. a. ignotum*). **Voice** Song is a loud sharp *wi-twee*. **HH** Undergrowth in moist forest and bamboo thickets



Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti* 17 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Spot-throated and Buff-breasted by larger size, with bigger head and larger bill, and has rufous cast to uppertail-coverts and tail. Further from Buff-breasted by greyish (rather than buff) lores and more pronounced grey supercilium, white throat and upper breast, and proportionately shorter tail. Further from Spot-throated by unspotted throat, and rufous-buff breast sides, flanks and undertail-coverts. **Voice** Song is 3–4 whistled notes with the last note highest. **HH** Thickets in moist forest.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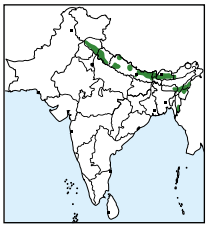
ignotum
Spot-throated Babbler
ad
Marsh Babbler
ad
mandellii
Puff-throated Babbler
ad
ruficeps
ad
Buff-breasted Babbler
ad
Brown-capped Babbler
ad
Abbott's Babbler

Streaked Wren Babbler *Napothera brevicaudata* 12 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Large, with prominent tail and less rotund appearance compared with *Pnoepyga* wren babblers. Has grey lores, supercilium and ear-coverts (resulting in grey-faced appearance), whitish throat diffusely streaked with grey, olive-brown breast, becoming brighter rufous-brown on flanks and vent, olive-brown upperparts with dark brown fringes (resulting in an untidy streaked or scaled appearance), and prominent buff tips to wing-coverts and tertials. Greyish edges to primaries form panel on wing. **Voice** Sings with variable, clear ringing whistles; sometimes a single *pweeee*. **HH** Moist forest on rocky ground and ravines.

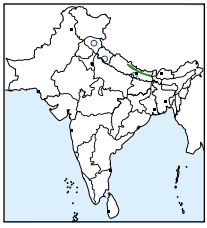
Eyebrowed Wren Babbler *Napothera epilepidota* 10 cm

Resident. NE Indian Hills. **ID** The only wren babbler in subcontinent with a prominent supercilium and dark eye-stripe. Additional features include dark brown upperparts, indistinctly scaled with black, prominent white spotting on wing-coverts, and bold dark spotting on throat and breast. *N. e. roberti* (south of the Brahmaputra R) has buff coloration to supercilium, sides of throat and breast; these parts are white in *N. e. guttaticollis* (NE Himalayas). **Voice** Song is a thin, plaintive, falling whistle *cheeeeeeu*, repeated at 2–5 second intervals; rather subdued, prolonged rattles when alarmed. **HH** Moss-covered boulders and logs in dense forest.



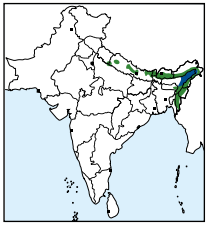
Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga albiventer* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** A rotund, tailless wren babbler with boldly scaled underparts, occurring in white and fulvous colour morphs. From Pygmy Wren Babbler by larger size (appears noticeably larger than Eurasian Wren or Grey-bellied Tesia), more rounded appearance, and more ponderous movements. Usually shows well-defined buff spotting on sides of crown and sides of neck (occasionally on entire crown and mantle), which is lacking on Pygmy, but spotting on head and upperparts can be much reduced. Juvenile is considerably smaller and has uniform dark chestnut-brown upperparts, while underparts are sooty-grey to brown and lack bold scaling. *P. a. pallidior* (W and C Himalayas) has paler olive-brown upperparts than nominate (E Himalayas). **Voice** Song is a strong warble, *tzee-tze-zit-tzu-stu-tzit,* rising then ending abruptly. **HH** Tall herbage in moist forest.



Nepal Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga immaculata* 10 cm

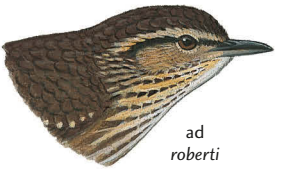
Resident. Nepal Himalayas west to Himachal Pradesh (in winter only?). **ID** Similar in size and appearance to Scaly-breasted, with longer and heavier bill; best separated by song. Feathers of underparts are more elongated in shape, resulting in narrower arrowhead-shaped black centres and pale fringes to feathers (giving rise to streaked appearance). Upperparts are more uniform, lacking buff spotting on crown, mantle and wing-coverts which is usually apparent on Scaly-breasted (particularly characteristic are the unmarked areas above and behind the eye and on neck sides). White morphs are tinged ochre, appearing distinctly dirty compared with most Scaly-breasted; the fulvous morph is deep rusty-yellow on underparts (less saturated than the deep rusty colour of Scaly-bellied). Upperparts are a paler olive-brown than nominate Scaly-breasted; coloration is similar to that of *P. a. pallidior*. **Voice** Eight high-pitched piercing notes, fairly quickly delivered, *si-su-si-si-swi-si-si-si*. **HH** Tall herbage in dense forest.



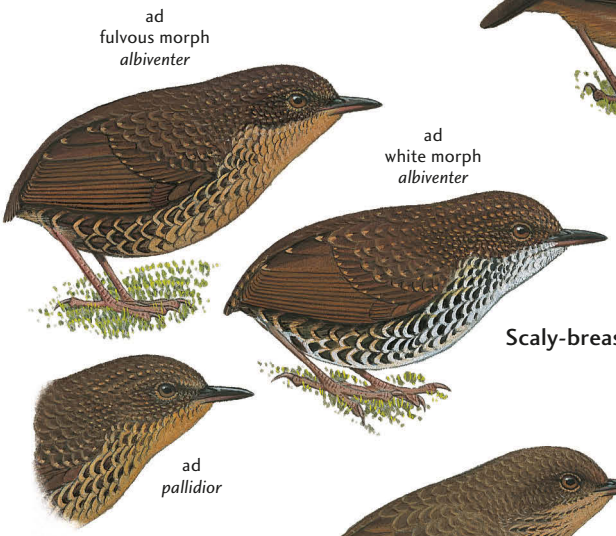
Pygmy Wren Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla* 9 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** From Scaly-breasted by smaller size (appears similar in size to Eurasian Wren or Grey-bellied Tesia) and by distinctive song. Spotting on upperparts is confined to lower back and wing-coverts (lacking well-defined buff spotting on crown and neck which is usually present on Scaly-breasted). Juvenile has uniform dark brown upperparts, and underparts are sooty-grey and lack bold scaling. **Voice** Song is a loud, slowly drawn-out *see-saw,* repeated monotonously. **HH** Tall herbage in moist forest.

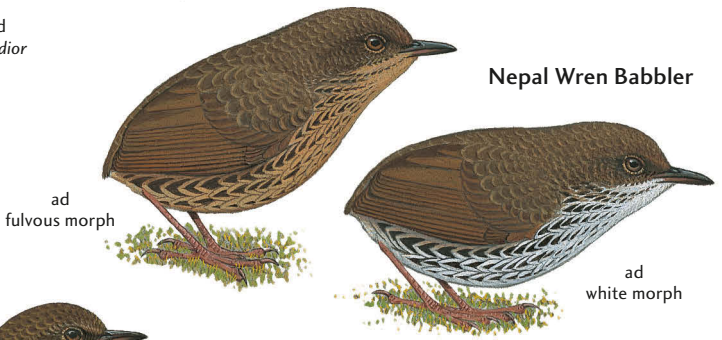
Streaked Wren Babbler



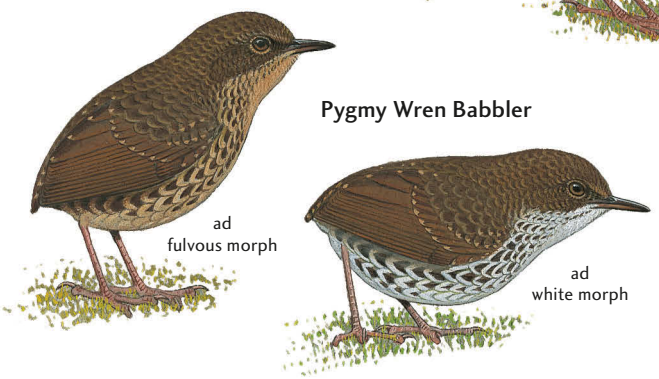
Eyebrowed Wren Babbler



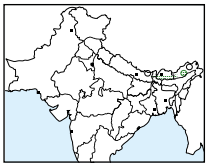
Scaly-breasted Wren Babbler



Nepal Wren Babbler



Pygmy Wren Babbler

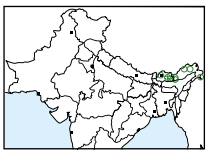


Rufous-throated Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis caudatus* 9 cm

Resident. E Himalayas. **ID** From Pygmy by grey ear-coverts, whitish chin, rufous-orange throat and breast (latter with some dark streaking and barring), with paler rufous-orange extending onto flanks, white-barred or -spotted rather than scaled appearance to breast and belly, no buff spotting on wing-coverts, and short, square-ended tail. Some birds paler orange-buff on throat and breast. **Voice** Intense warble, *swichu-wichu-wichu* or *wichity-wichity-wu*. Also *dzik* call. **HH** Mossy rocks and ferns in dense forest.

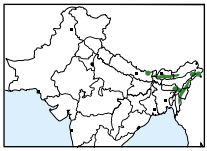
Rusty-throated Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis badeigularis* 9 cm

Resident. Mishmi Hills, E Arunachal Pradesh. **HH** From Pygmy by white chin, rusty-chestnut throat, white-barred or -spotted appearance to breast and belly, lack of buff spotting on wing-coverts, and presence of short, stubby tail. Compared with Rufous-throated, has more white on chin, darker brown upperparts, and deeper rusty-chestnut throat with dark streaks (with rusty colour not extending onto breast and flanks, which are barred/spotted with white on black). **Voice** Similar to Rufous-thoated. **HH** Moist subtropical forest. Globally threatened.



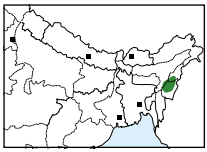
Bar-winged Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis troglodytoides* 10 cm

Resident. E Himalayas. **ID** Long-tailed with barred wings and tail. Crown and nape mottled with chestnut and black and boldly spotted with white, with white spotting on sides of neck and mantle. White throat diffusely spotted black, with white merging into chestnut-splashed breast, chestnut flanks marked with white, and irregular dark spotting on white belly. **Voice** Powerful, rapid warble, *tu-lulu-lulu-lulu-lulu*; calls with a faint *churr*. **HH** Undergrowth in moist forest.



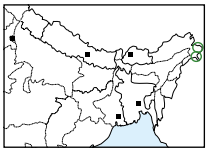
Spotted Wren Babbler *Elachura formosa* 10 cm

Resident. E Himalayas, hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Dark brown with a noticeable tail. From other wren babblers by broad dark brown barring on rufous-brown wings and tail. Has irregular white flecking on grey-brown sides of head and upperparts (especially prominent on nape and wing-coverts), and white and dark brown mottling and dark brown vermiculations on buffish underparts. **Voice** Song is a high-pitched, faltering, repeated whistle, *did-did-did-dit*. Call is a spluttering *put-put-put...* **HH** Denser undergrowth in moist forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Spelaeornis*.



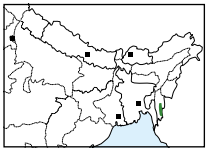
Long-tailed Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis chocolatinus* 10 cm

Resident. Nagaland and Manipur. **ID** Long-tailed and dark-scaled upperparts. From Tawny-breasted Wren Babbler by darker upperparts, black spotting on sides of throat and sides of breast, and buff streaking on flanks. Male has white throat and centre to breast. Female has rufous-buff throat and breast, and is more richly coloured below than Tawny-breasted. **Voice** Song is a strong, clear *wee-e-itchy wee-oo*; call is *tchut tchut*. **HH** Dense undergrowth in forest and hillsides with moss-covered rocks.



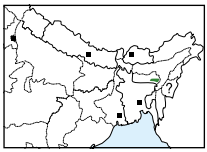
Grey-bellied Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis reptatus* 10 cm

Presumably resident. SE Arunachal Pradesh. **ID** From Long-tailed by greyer and more heavily marked underparts, and bolder dark scaling on upperparts. Male has grey on underparts, with black and white spotting and scaling. Female is buffier and browner on underparts, with greyish belly, and black and buff spotting and scaling. **Voice** A repeated decelerating trill. **HH** Wet ravines with thick undergrowth. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Long-tailed Wren Babbler.



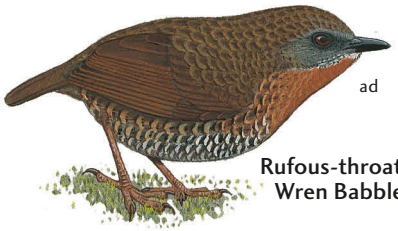
Chin Hills Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis oatesi* 10.5 cm

Resident. Lushai hills, Mizoram. **ID** Has white throat, centre of breast and belly with extensive black spotting, contrasting with olive-brown flanks. Underparts lack buff and rufous tones of similar species. Sexes similar. **Voice** Sings with loud, abrupt, undulating phrases, *chiwi-chiwi-chiwi-chew* or *witchi-witchi-witchi-wu*. Calls include soft *tuc..tuc...tuc*. **HH** Understorey of moist forest. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Long-tailed Wren Babbler *S. chocolatinus*.

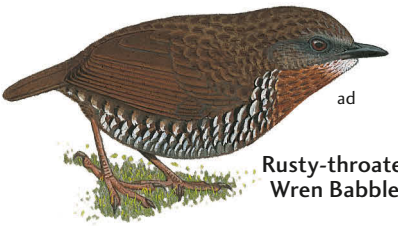


Tawny-breasted Wren Babbler *Spelaeornis longicaudatus* 10 cm

Resident. E Meghalaya. **ID** Slim and long-tailed with scaly appearance to brown upperparts. From similar species by uniform orange-buff underparts without prominent black flecking or white spotting. As similar species, has grey lores and ear-coverts. **Voice** Variable, loud clear whistle, *whi-chu we-e-ee*, or *whit-che-ee*, sometimes rising at the end, and a soft churring alarm call. **HH** Understorey of moist forest. Globally threatened.

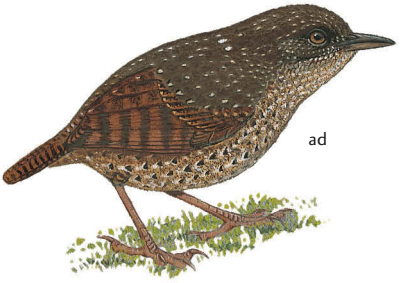


Rufous-throated Wren Babbler

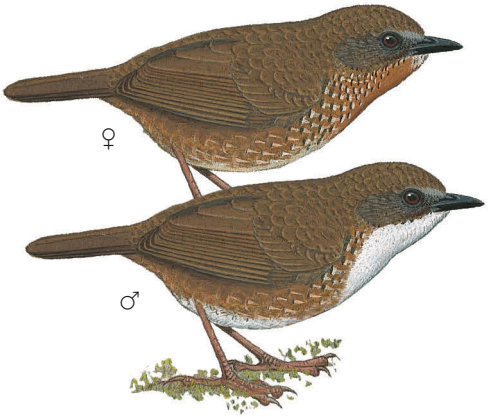


Rusty-throated Wren Babbler

Bar-winged Wren Babbler

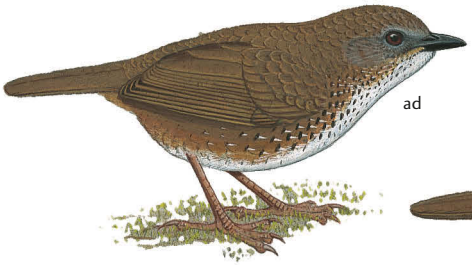


Spotted Wren Babbler

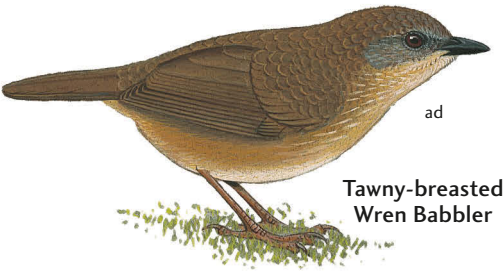


Long-tailed Wren Babbler

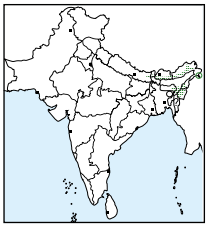
Grey-bellied Wren Babbler



Chin Hills Wren Babbler

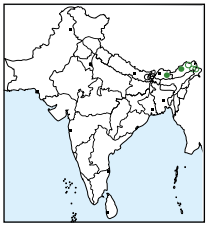


Tawny-breasted Wren Babbler



Long-billed Wren Babbler *Rimator malacoptilus* 12 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Large, short-tailed wren babbler with long, down-curved bill. Has buffish-white throat and buff belly, broad buff streaking to brown breast and flanks, and brown upperparts with fine buff shaft-streaking. Also narrow dark moustachial stripe and less distinct malar stripe, and rufous-brown vent and undertail-coverts. **Voice** Utters a sweet chirping whistle. **HH** Forest undergrowth on rocky ground, steep ravines and overgrown, abandoned clearings.

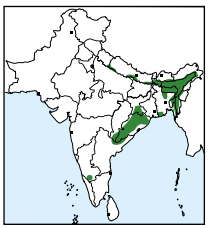


Himalayan Wedge-billed Babbler *Sphenocichla humei* 18 cm

Resident. E Himalayas to NE Arunachal. **ID** An extraordinary-looking babbler, with wedge-shaped bill, broad but diffuse grey supercilium and spotting on sides of neck, boldly marked upperparts, diffuse brown barring across wings and tail, and sturdy blackish legs and feet. From Manipur Wedge-billed by black face and underparts (becoming greyish-white on belly) with fine white shaft streaking, more pronounced greyish supercilium, and white shaft streaking on olive-buff-centred feathers of crown and mantle (lacking pale tips to nape and mantle of *roberti*). **Voice** Songs include loud, melodious whistles, often given in duet. **HH** Understorey of broadleaved evergreen forest with bamboo. **AN** Blackish-breasted Babbler.

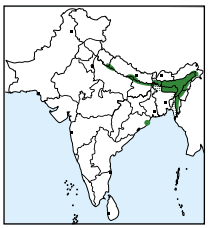
Manipur Wedge-billed Babbler *Sphenocichla roberti* 18.5 cm

Resident. SE Arunachal Pradesh, N Cachar, Nagaland and Manipur. **ID** From Himalayan Wedge-billed by paler and heavily scaled underparts, with feathers of throat and breast subterminally lined with white and fringed with black. Also has rufous-brown forehead, and paler, more olive-brown upperparts, with diffuse whitish tips to feathers of nape and mantle. Greyish supercilium less distinct. **Voice** Unknown. **HH** Understorey of broadleaved evergreen forest with bamboo. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Himalayan Wedge-billed Babbler as Wedge-billed Wren Babbler *S. humei.* **AN** Chevron-breasted Babbler.



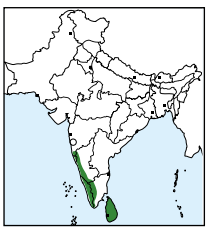
Pin-striped Tit Babbler *Macronus gularis* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, hills of NE, E and S India, and Bangladesh. **ID** Rather scruffy-looking babbler with rufous-brown cap, yellow eyes, pale yellow lores and supercilium, olive mantle, brown wings and tail, and pale yellow underparts with fine black streaking on throat and breast. **Voice** A loud monotonous repeated *chuk-chuk-chuk*. **HH** Forest undergrowth. **AN** Striped Tit Babbler.



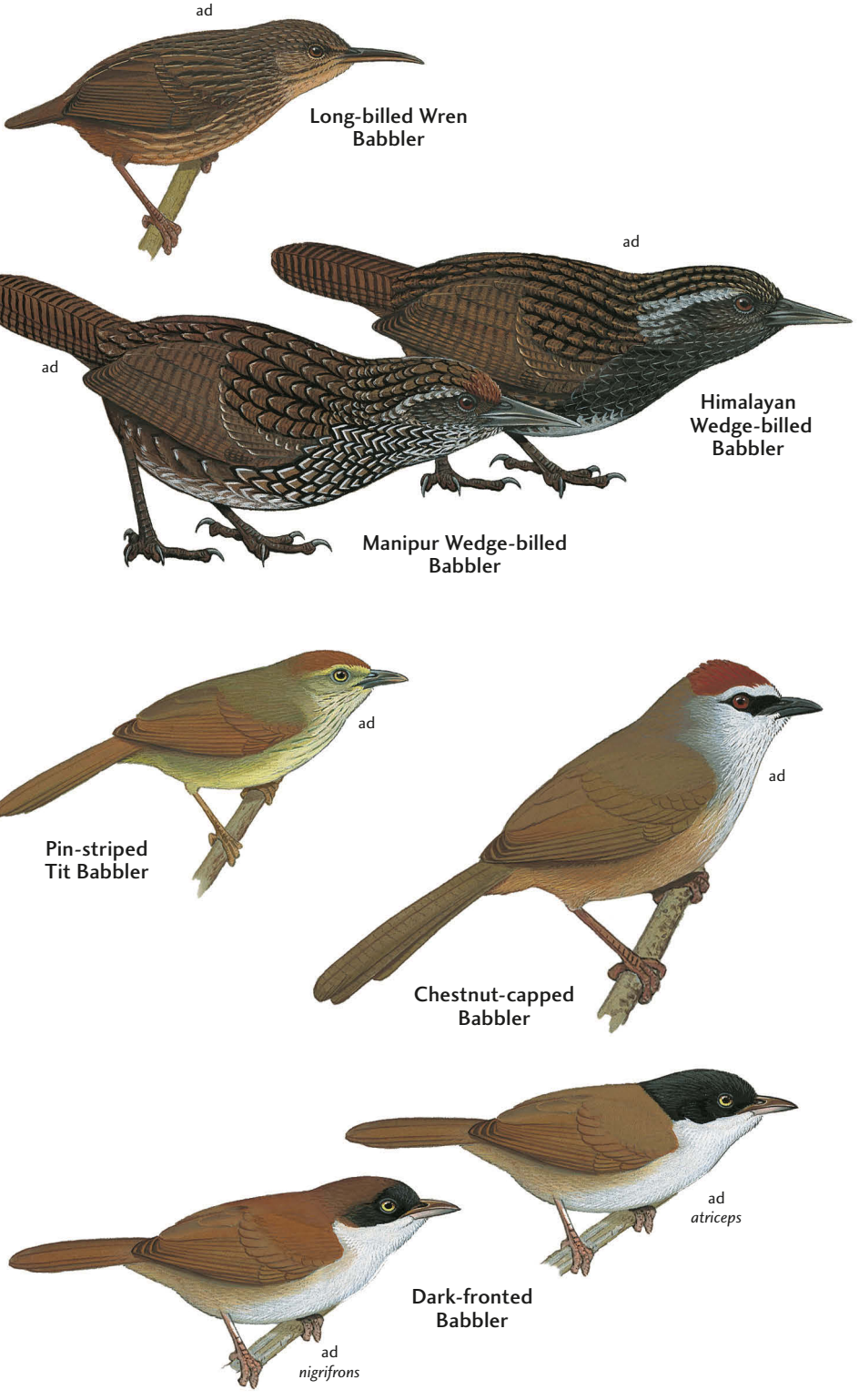
Chestnut-capped Babbler *Timalia pileata* 17 cm

Resident. Himalayan terai and foothills, and NE Indian plains. **ID** A stocky, thick-necked babbler with bright chestnut cap, reddish iris, white forehead and supercilium, and thick black bill and black lores (resulting in masked appearance). Has white throat and breast (streaked finely with black), bordered with slate-grey on sides of neck, buffish-olive flanks and vent, and buff belly. Tail is faintly barred. **Voice** Utters a fast, high-pitched, descending trill; *tzt* contact note and a *pic-pic-pic* alarm call. **HH** Tall grass, reedbeds and scrub in low-lying wet areas; also grass-covered plateaux in Khasi Hills.



Dark-fronted Babbler *Rhopocichla atriceps* 13 cm

Resident. Western Ghats and Sri Lanka. **ID** Stocky, shortish-tailed and bull-headed babbler, with pale grey bill and striking yellow eyes. The only babbler in region which has a combination of black on head, rufous-brown to olive-brown upperparts, and whitish underparts (with olive-brown to buffish flanks and vent). Two subspecies in the Western Ghats have dark crown and ear-coverts (crown is black in *R. a. atriceps* and sooty-brown in *R. a. bourdilloni*), while the two subspecies in Sri Lanka have black of head restricted to forehead and ear-coverts (with *R. a. nigrifrons* having more rufous upperparts than *R. a. siccatus*). **Voice** An unobtrusive *tup*, scolding *churr* and nasal mewing, also a throaty grating call. **HH** Dense undergrowth, thickets near streams.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Long-billed Wren Babbler
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Manipur Wedge-billed Babbler
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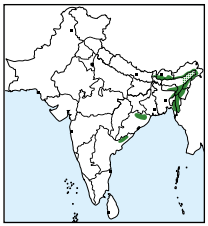
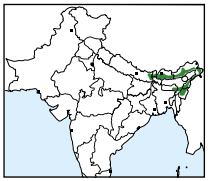


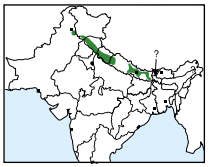
Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyridopsis rufifrons* 12 cm

Resident. E Himalayan foothills, NE and E Indian hills, and Bangladesh. **ID** Very similar to Rufous-capped Babbler, but rufous cap is less sharply defined and does not extend onto rear crown. In addition, has white throat (faintly streaked with black), fine grey supercilium and greyish lores, olive-brown (rather than buff) ear-coverts which are concolorous with mantle, and buffish breast and flanks, becoming paler on belly. Juvenile as adult, but has more rufous fringes to wings and tail, has paler underparts, and rufous cap is paler. **Voice** Indistinguishable from Rufous-capped. **HH** Thick undergrowth in open forest and ravines. **TN** Formerly placed in *Stachyris*.



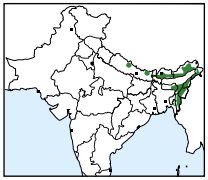
Rufous-capped Babbler *Stachyridopsis ruficeps* 12 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Very similar to Rufous-fronted, but rufous cap is more sharply defined and extends farther onto rear crown. In addition, has brighter olive upperparts, pale yellow throat (faintly streaked with black), and yellowish-buff face and underparts (which contrast more with mantle). Juvenile as adult, but duller, with paler underparts and a paler crown; more closely resembles Rufous-fronted. **Voice** *Pee-pi-pi-pi-pi-pi pi*. **HH** Bamboo thickets and dense undergrowth in moist forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Stachyris*.



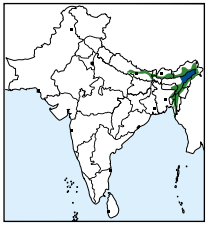
Black-chinned Babbler *Stachyridopsis pyrrhops* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Small, rather bull-headed babbler, with black lores, chin and centre of throat. Also has olive-buff crown with dark streaking, buffish ear-coverts, orange-buff underparts, and olive-brown upperparts (lacking any rufous in plumage). Iris is red. **Voice** Pleasant bell-like piping, *whit-whit-whit-whit*. **HH** Undergrowth in open forest and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Stachyris*.



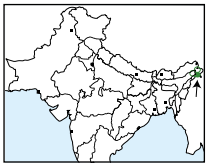
Golden Babbler *Stachyridopsis chrysaea* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Distinctive babbler with yellow forehead and black-streaked yellow crown, black lores and moustachial stripe, olive-green upperparts and yellow underparts. *S. c. chrysaea* (E Himalayas and south to Manipur) has yellowish-olive upperparts and bright chrome-yellow underparts. *S. c. binghami* (Mizoram and south to Bangladesh hills) has duller olive-green upperparts and duller yellow underparts. **Voice** Like Rufous-capped, but pause after first note. **HH** Bamboo thickets. **TN** Formerly in placed *Stachyris*.



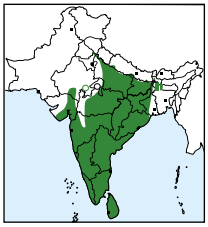
Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From *Stachyridopsis* babblers by combination of blackish crown with white streaking, black lateral crown-stripe and greyish supercilium, and black-and-white or grey chin and throat. Subspecies variation mainly in the patterning of throat and the colour of ear-coverts and underparts: e.g. *S. n. nigriceps* (C and E Himalayas) has chin and throat grey, buff-brown ear-coverts and buff underparts, whereas *S. n. coltarti* (Nagaland) has chin and throat mainly black, with white malar stripe, and bright orange-buff ear-coverts and underparts. **Voice** High-pitched, tinkling trill, prefaced with single note. **HH** Undergrowth and bamboo thickets in forest and secondary growth.



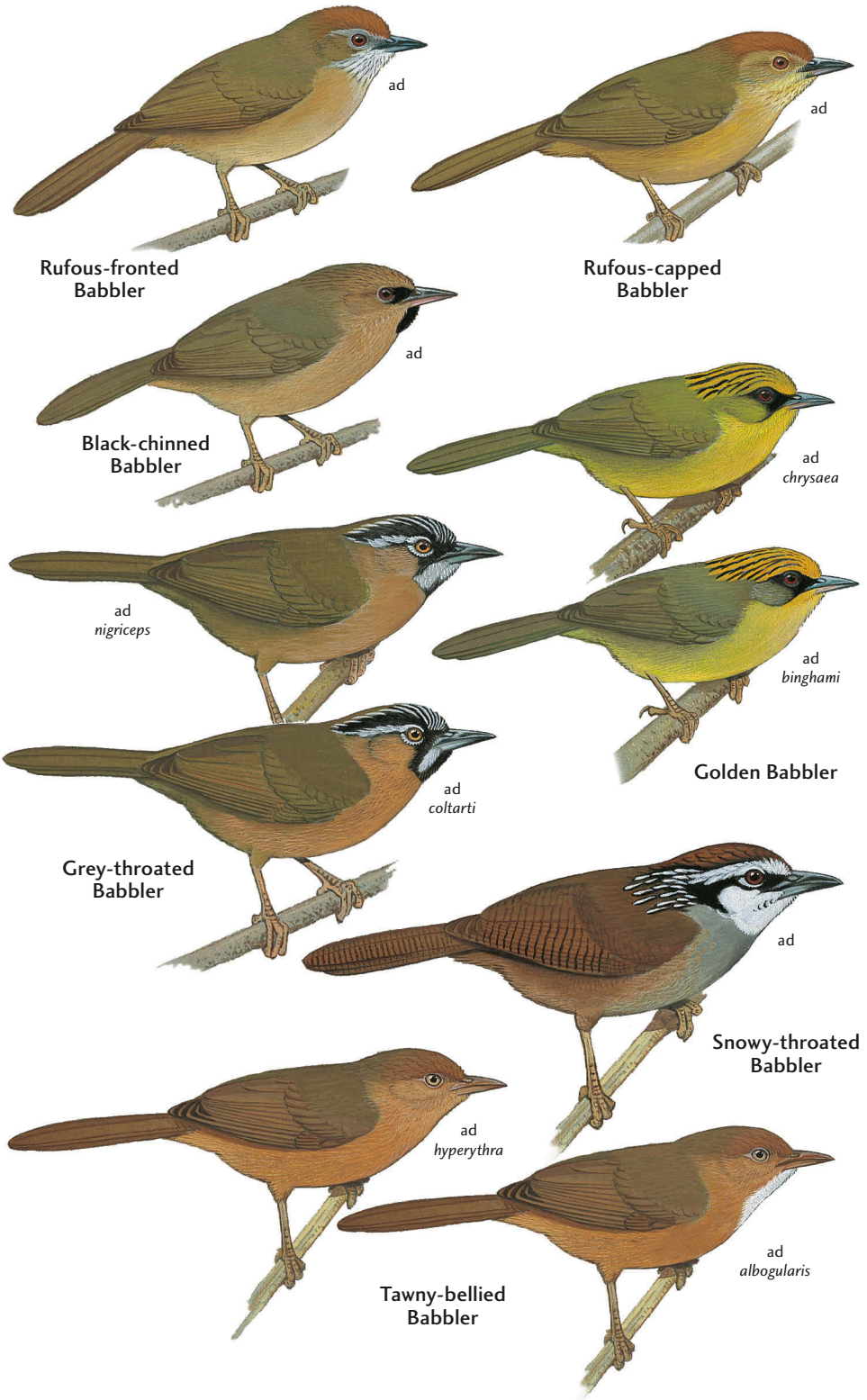
Snowy-throated Babbler *Stachyris oglei* 13 cm

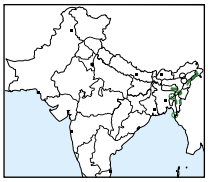
Resident. Arunachal Pradesh hills. **ID** Large, distinctive *Stachyris* babbler, with white supercilium, black sides to crown and broad black eye-stripe, chestnut crown and nape, black-bordered white spotting on sides of neck and mantle, fine black barring across wings and tail, white throat, grey breast and belly, and olive-brown flanks. **Voice** Calls include bursts of rapid, thin, high-pitched notes. Song unknown. **HH** Dense scrub in rocky ravines; evergreen forest in winter. Globally threatened.



Tawny-bellied Babbler *Dumetia hyperythra* 13 cm

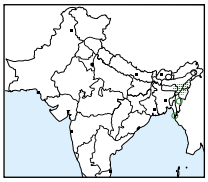
Resident. Peninsular India, S Nepal and Sri Lanka. **ID** Fairly long-tailed, rufous-coloured babbler. Forehead and forecrown are rufous-buff, sides of head and underparts are orange-buff, mantle is olive-brown, and wings and tail are brown, the tail with faint barring. Eye is pale and bill is pale pinkish-brown. Juvenile has brighter, more rufous-brown upperparts, lacking rufous-brown forehead; has only traces of white on throat, and duller underparts. Four subspecies are described from the subcontinent, three of which have white throat including *D. h. phillipsi* (Sri Lanka) which has white supercilium. *D. h. hyperythra* (E peninsular India) has throat concolorous with rest of the underparts. **Voice** Whistling seven-note song; flocks utter *sweech-sweech* call. **HH** Tall grass and scrub.


ad
Rufous-fronted Babbler
ad
Rufous-capped Babbler
ad
Black-chinned Babbler
ad
chrysaea
ad
nigriceps
ad
binghami
Golden Babbler
ad
coltarti
Grey-throated Babbler
ad
Snowy-throated Babbler
ad
hyperythra
ad
albogularis
Tawny-bellied Babbler



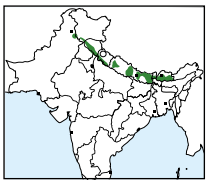
Large Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos* 28 cm

Resident. Hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From other scimitar babblers by combination of larger size, lack of white supercilium, stouter, straighter and dull-coloured bill, dark eye, grey ear-coverts, variable rufous mottling on supercilium and sides of neck, white streaking on grey sides of breast, dark olive-brown upperparts with slight rufous tinge, and stout grey legs and feet. **Voice** Loud variable piping notes, usually three per phrase. **HH** Reeds, tall grass and forest undergrowth.



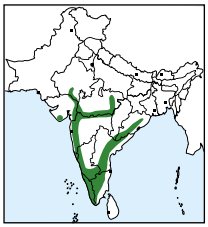
Spot-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrocnemis* 25 cm

Resident. Hills of E Bhutan, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Given range, likely to be confused only with Large and best told by smaller size, finer bill, yellow eye, rufous forehead and ear-coverts, bold brown spotting on white breast, uniform olive-brown breast sides and flanks, paler olive-brown upperparts, and brownish rather than lead-grey legs and feet. **Voice** Low-pitched, persistent, fluty *tiuu-tuu*, first note stressed, followed by a higher-pitched *tiuuk*. **HH** Forest undergrowth and secondary growth.



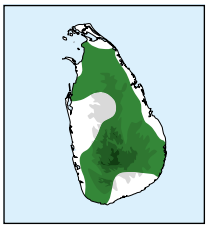
Rusty-cheeked Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus erythrogenys* 25 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Rufous lores and ear-coverts. Unmistakable throughout W and C Himalayan range: lacks white supercilium, and has rufous forehead, ear-coverts, sides of breast, flanks and vent. *P. e. haringtoni* (E Himalayas) has greyer or noticeably grey-streaked/spotted throat and upper breast; spotting on breast can be well defined, but pattern is continuous with throat (throat always white on Spot-breasted). **Voice** Loud, far-carrying three-noted calls followed by a staccato *quit*. **HH** Undergrowth and thick scrub.



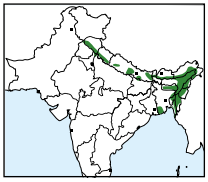
Indian Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii* 22 cm

Resident. Hills of peninsular India. **ID** The only scimitar babbler in peninsular India. Has striking white supercilium contrasting with dark ear-coverts, and down-curved yellow bill. Four races on the peninsula: palest is *P. h. obscurus* (Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh), which has grey upperparts with slightly darker grey crown, ear-coverts and breast sides and flanks; darkest is *P. h. travancoreensis* (Western Ghats and adjoining parts of Tamil Nadu), which has brownish-black crown, darker olive upperparts, and black ear-coverts, sides of breast and flanks; juvenile *travancoreensis*, however, may show rufous on sides of neck and breast. **Voice** Musical *wot-ho-ho-ho* followed by a quiet *kruru* uttered by the female. **HH** Forest and secondary growth.



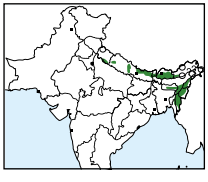
Sri Lanka Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus melanurus* 21.5 cm

Resident. The only scimitar babbler in Sri Lanka. **ID** Only scimitar babbler in Sri Lnaka. Has striking white supercilium contrasting with dark ear-coverts, and down-curved yellow bill. Wet Zone nominate has chestnut-brown upperparts and sides of breast and flanks (olive-brown in dry zone *holdsworthi*). **Voice** Variety of loud, bubbling whistles. **HH** Forest and well-wooded areas. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Indian Scimitar Babbler *P. horsfieldii*.



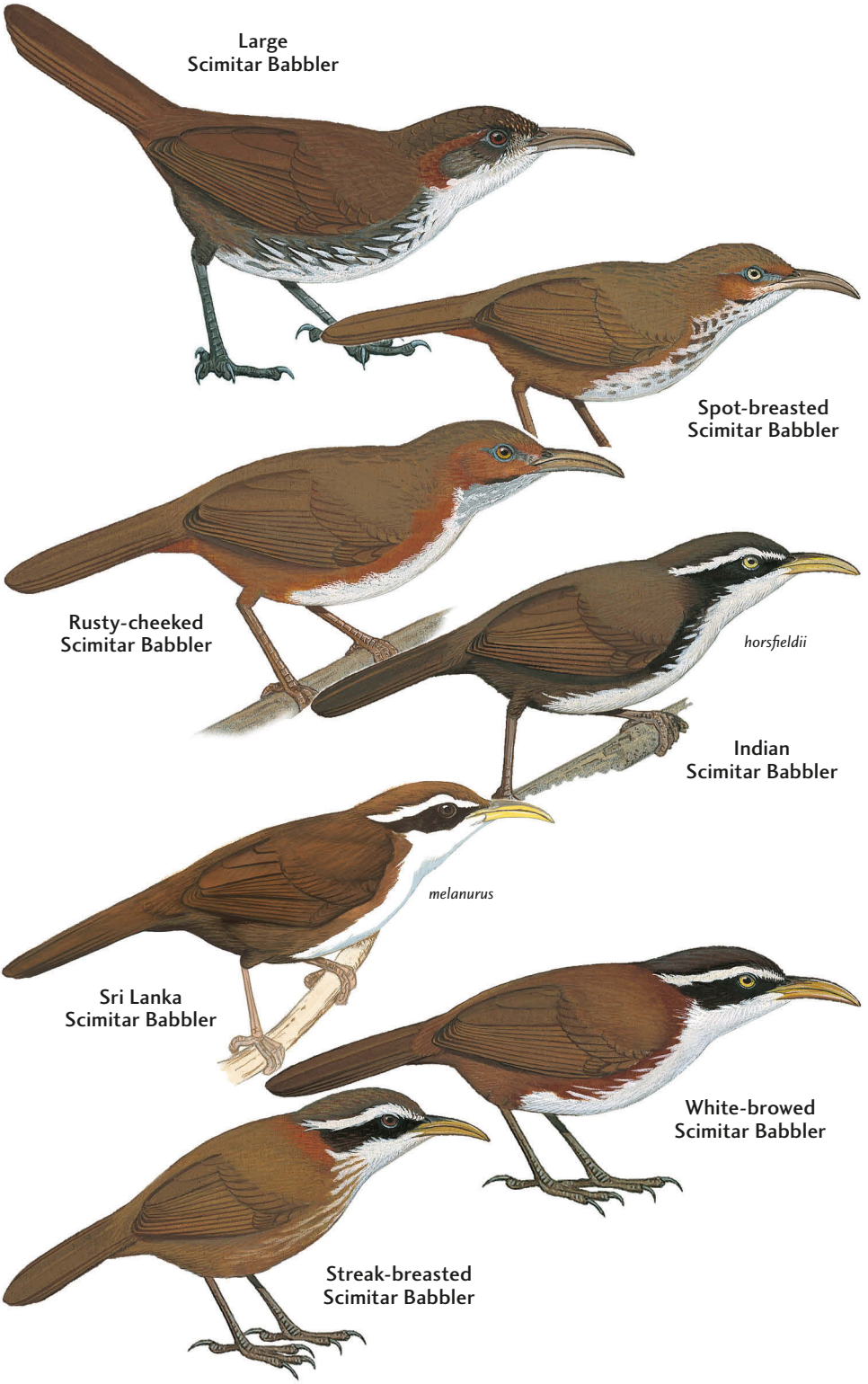
White-browed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus schisticeps* 22 cm

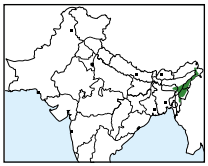
Resident. Himalayan foothills, hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Striking white supercilium contrasting with black ear-coverts, and downcurved yellow bill. From similar Streak-breasted by clean white centre to breast and belly, chestnut sides to breast with variable white streaking, larger size, and larger, more curved bill. Juvenile smaller, with smaller bill and olive-brown crown; more closely resembles Streak-breasted, but centre of breast is white and sides of breast chestnut. **Voice** Single note followed by a trilled hoot or evenly spaced three-note whistle. **HH** Forest.



Streak-breasted Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ruficollis* 19 cm

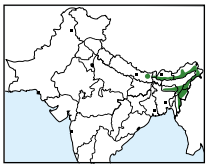
Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** From similar White-browed by diffuse olive-brown streaking on breast and belly, merging into olive-brown on flanks, distinct rufous patch on sides of neck which extends across nape as a diffuse band, smaller size, and smaller and less down-curved bill. Eye is dark in Himalayan range (yellow in White-browed). Juvenile has brighter rufous upperparts, rufous breast with some white streaking, and smaller, almost straight bill. **Voice** Call is a soft, musical *of-an-on*. **HH** Forest undergrowth and dense scrub.


Large
Scimitar Babbler
Spot-breasted
Scimitar Babbler
Rusty-cheeked
Scimitar Babbler
horsfieldii
Indian
Scimitar Babbler
melanurus
Sri Lanka
Scimitar Babbler
White-browed
Scimitar Babbler
Streak-breasted
Scimitar Babbler



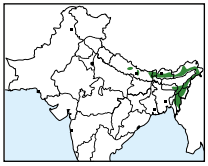
Red-billed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ochraceiceps* 23 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Down-curved reddish bill and striking white supercilium. From Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler by longer, finer and orange-red bill, narrower black mask, white or paler buff breast and belly, and paler olive-brown upperparts with brighter ginger-buff cast to crown (lacking dark lateral crown-stripes). **Voice** Utters hurried, hollow piping; also very rapid human-like whistle. **HH** Dense undergrowth in broadleaved evergreen forest and bamboo thickets.



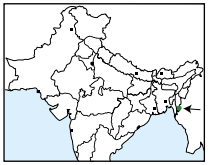
Coral-billed Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus ferruginosus* 22 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Downcurved red bill and striking white supercilium. From Red-billed by stouter, shorter and blood-red bill. In E Himalayas, nominate further separated by brownish-black crown and nape, deep rufous breast and belly, larger and broader white supercilium, and bright rufous feathering on forehead and lores. More similar to Red-billed in hills south and east of the Brahmaputra (with rufous olive-brown crown and buff underparts): main differences are buff lower throat and breast contrasting with white upper throat and malar stripe, broader black mask, darker upperparts, and slate-grey crown-sides. **Voice** Soft whistles, oriole-like mewing and short squeaks combined with harsh scolding. **HH** Undergrowth in moist forest.



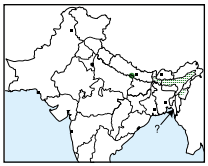
Slender-billed Scimitar Babbler *Xiphirhynchus superciliaris* 20 cm

Resident. C and E Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Has long, slender, downcurved black bill, fine and feathery white supercilium contrasting with slate-grey crown and ear-coverts, grey-streaked white throat, and deep rufous underparts. **Voice** Utters a repeated powerful tremulous *pwoorr* or slower *toop-toop-toop-toop*. **HH** Undergrowth in moist forest and bamboo thickets.



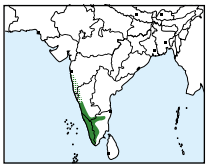
Chinese Babax *Babax lanceolatus* 28 cm

Resident. Mizoram. **ID** Has dark-streaked rufous-brown crown, pale ear coverts with dark streaking, dark chestnut submoustachial stripe, bold chestnut-brown streaking on greyish upperparts, and broad chestnut streaking on breast sides and flanks, with buffish-white underparts. Bill downcurved. Juvenile similar to adult, but less heavily streaked with shorter tail and straighter bill. **Voice** Loud, plaintive whistle (may be in duet). **HH** Open forest and hillside scrub.



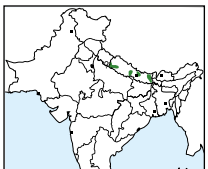
Slender-billed Babbler *Turdoides longirostris* 23 cm

Resident. Lowlands of C Nepal and NE subcontinent. **ID** From other babblers by fine, down-curved blackish bill, whitish lores and buff ear-coverts, unstreaked dark rufous-brown upperparts, whitish throat, and unstreaked deep buff underparts. **Voice** Vocalisations include a shrill, rather high-pitched series of notes and a discordant high-pitched, repeated *tiu-tiu-tiu*. **HH** Tall grassland, especially near water. Globally threatened.



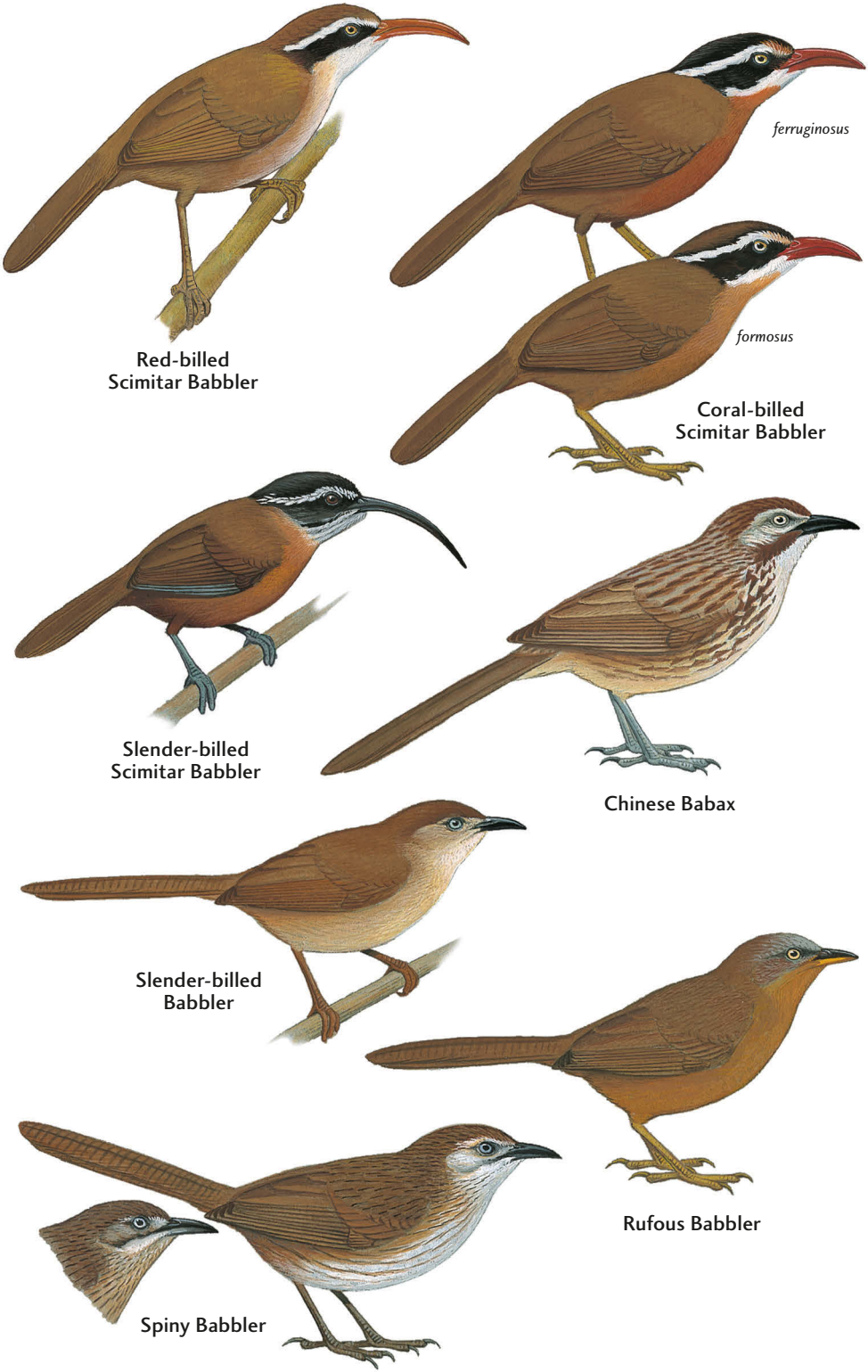
Rufous Babbler *Turdoides subrufa* 25 cm

Resident. SW Indian hills. **ID** Has grey forehead and forecrown, blackish lores, black upper mandible contrasting with yellow lower mandible, chestnut-brown upperparts, and unstreaked rufous underparts. Some (immatures?) lack grey forehead and forecrown. Juvenile has dark grey iris. **Voice** Utters high-pitched, shrill, scolding squeaks. **HH** Thick cover and edges of forest clearings in moist forests; favours habitats intermixed with tall grass and bamboo.



Spiny Babbler *Turdoides nipalensis* 25 cm

Resident. Nepal Himalayas. **ID** Has downcurved black bill, white on face, dark brown upperparts which lack prominent streaking, white iris, and strong, fine black streaking on throat and breast. Noticeable variation in patterning of head and colour of underparts: some show largely white face and throat, and white centre of breast and belly with dark shaft streaking restricted to lower throat and breast; others have white restricted to lores and malar region, with buff lower throat and breast which are more extensively covered in dark shaft streaking. **Voice** Song a distinctive, harsh ringing whistle: starts with a few fine whistles and then ascends the scale. Call a clear *el-el-el-el-el* and alarm a low churr. **HH** Dense scrub on hillsides; favours thicker areas away from cultivation.

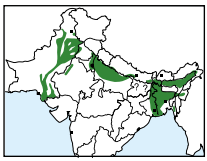

Red-billed
Scimitar Babbler
ferruginosus
formosus
Coral-billed
Scimitar Babbler
Slender-billed
Scimitar Babbler
Chinese Babax
Slender-billed
Babbler
Rufous Babbler
Spiny Babbler

Common Babbler *Turdoides caudata* 23 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in most of NE and E India, W Pakistan and Sri Lanka. **ID** From Striated by unstreaked whitish throat and unstreaked centre to breast (with streaking on underparts restricted to breast-sides). Also slightly smaller, colder whitish or greyish-buff underparts, yellowish legs and feet, and darker, more orange-brown iris. **Voice** A series of pleasant, rapid fluty whistles, and a louder, more drawn-out *pieuu-u-u pie-u-u pi-e-u-u.* **HH** Dry scrub in plains.

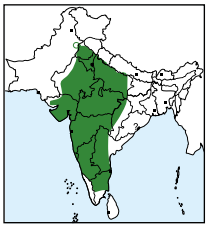
Afghan Babbler *Turdoides* (*caudata*) *huttoni* 23.5 cm

Resident. Baluchistan. **ID** Larger and paler than Common, with larger bill. Upperparts paler, greyer, fine dark streaks on breast and flanks. **Voice** Rich drawn-out whistles. **HH** Tamarisk scrub.



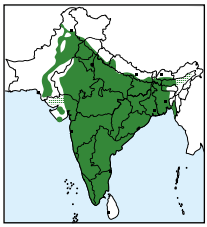
Striated Babbler *Turdoides earlei* 21 cm

Resident. Plains of N subcontinent. **ID** From Common by streaked or mottled appearance to fulvous throat and breast (which are unstreaked and white on Common). Additional features are slightly larger size, deeper buff breast and belly, blue-grey legs and feet (varying to olive-brown), and golden-yellow iris. **Voice** Song is a loud repeated series of *tiew-tiew-tiew-tiew* calls, interspersed with *quip-quip-quip* calls from other groups members. **HH** Reedbeds and tall grass in wet habitats.



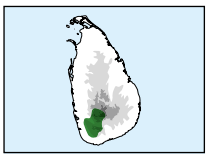
Large Grey Babbler *Turdoides malcolmi* 28 cm

Resident. Pakistan, W Nepal and Indian peninsula. **ID** Large, pale grey babbler with darker grey mottling on upperparts and prominent white sides to tail. Additional features include greyish-pink throat and breast (lacking dark mottling), pale grey forehead, dark grey lores, pale yellow iris, dull-coloured bill, and brownish-grey legs and feet. Juvenile is smaller, and has paler grey upperparts which lack dark mottling. **Voice** A monotonous, plaintive, drawling *kay-kay-kay-kay* (flatter and less squeaky than that of Jungle Babbler) and a noisy chattering when alarmed. **HH** Open dry scrub, cultivation and gardens; avoids wooded areas.



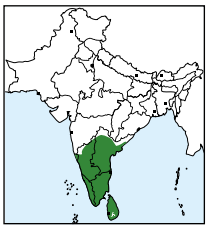
Jungle Babbler *Turdoides striata* 25 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** From Large Grey by smaller and stockier appearance, shorter, broader-looking tail lacking prominent white sides, mottling on throat and breast, and yellowish bill (although bill can be horn-brown in winter). From Yellow-billed Babbler of peninsula by uniform crown and less heavily mottled throat and breast. Six races in the subcontinent, mainly varying in colour and prominence of streaking on underparts. *T. s. somervillei* (NW Ghats) is distinctive, with prominent diffuse brown streaking on throat and breast, orange-buff lower underparts, orange-brown tail, dark brown primaries contrasting with paler grey-brown wing-coverts, and more uniform mantle. **Voice** A harsh *ke-ke-ke.* **HH** Deciduous forest, cultivation and gardens.



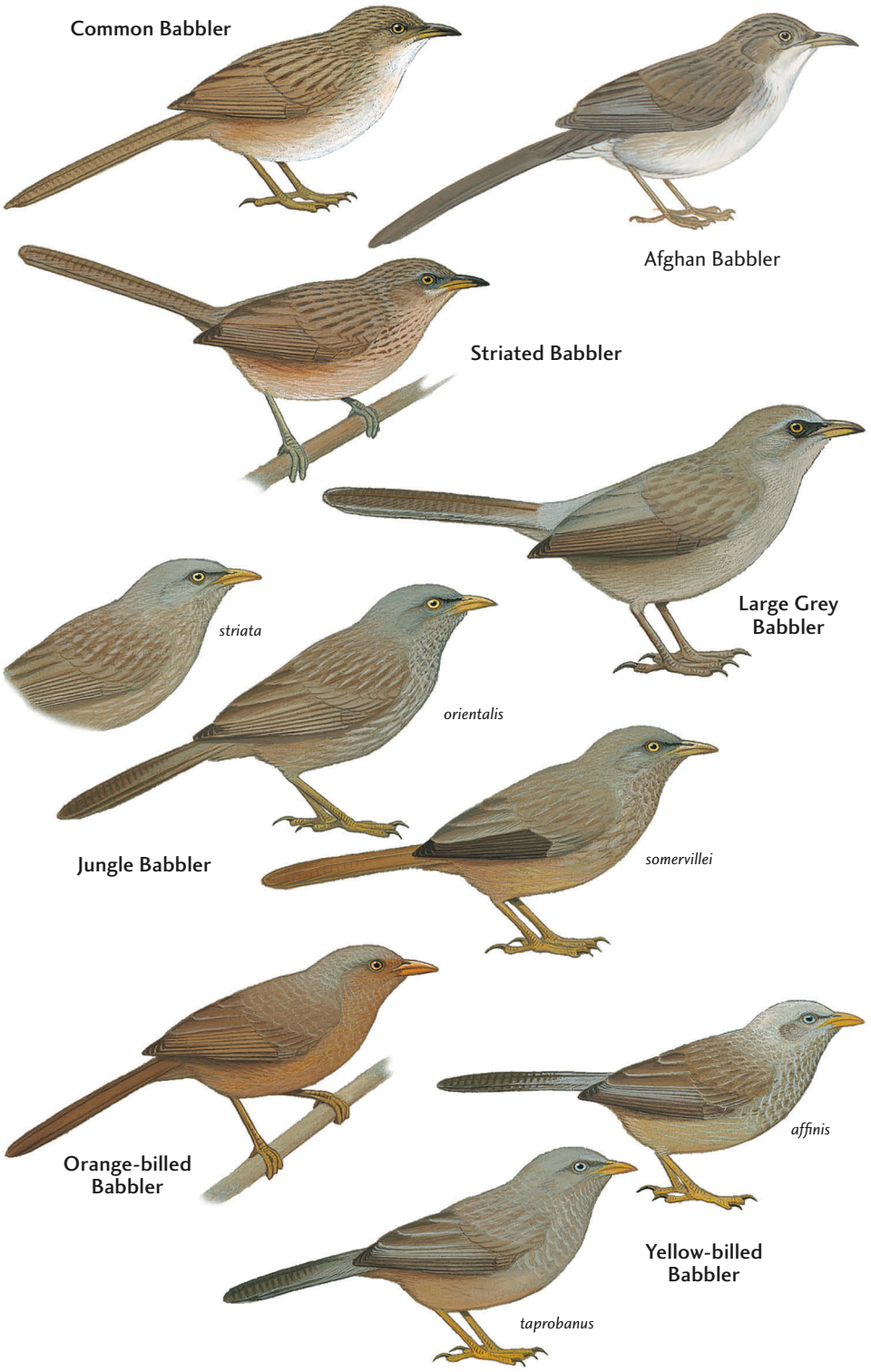
Orange-billed Babbler *Turdoides rufescens* 25 cm

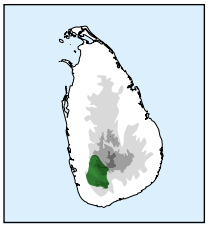
Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Distinctive babbler with orange bill and legs, chestnut-brown upperparts, cinnamon-rufous face and underparts (becoming browner on belly and flanks), and greyish crown and nape. Juvenile has greyish chin and browner underparts. **Voice** A continuous chattering, squeaking and chirping. **HH** Undisturbed wet-zone forest.



Yellow-billed Babbler *Turdoides affinis* 23 cm

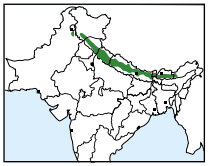
Resident. Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. **ID** From Jungle in having creamy-white lores, forehead and crown, dark mottling on throat and breast (diffusely streaked on most similar Jungle races), pale grey panel on wings, and also (in some birds) pale bluish-white iris. In flight pale buff rump and base to tail contrasts with darker rest of tail. Paleness of head and extent of mottling on throat and breast varies. Juvenile has darker brownish-buff crown and nape, lacks prominent buff streaking on mantle and back, and lacks darker mottling; best told from Jungle by combination of paler crown and nape showing slight contrast with mantle, buff wing panel, and paler rump and base to tail which contrast with rest of tail. *T. a. taprobanus* (Sri Lanka) has more uniform grey-brown upperparts and underparts, lacking whitish crown and nape and dark mottling on throat and breast. Extremely similar to Jungle (which does not occur in Sri Lanka); main difference is more striking greyish-white panel on wing. **Voice** Very high-pitched, intense, piercing piping calls. **HH** Low scrub (drier, more open areas than Jungle).


Common Babbler
Afghan Babbler
Striated Babbler
Large Grey Babbler
striata
orientalis
Jungle Babbler
somervillei
Orange-billed Babbler
affinis
Yellow-billed Babbler
taprobanus



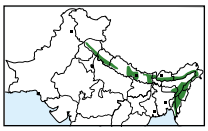
Ashy-headed Laughingthrush *Garrulax cinereifrons* 23 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** The only laughingthrush in Sri Lanka. Plain-coloured with greyish head, rufous-brown upperparts and tail, tawny underparts with paler throat, striking whitish eye, and dark bill and legs. Juvenile has brighter rufous underparts and duller eye. **Voice** Frequently utters harsh chattering. **HH** Dense wet forest and bamboo thickets. Globally threatened.



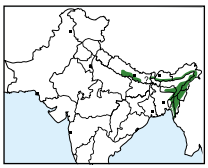
White-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax albogularis* 28 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Large, with striking white throat and upper breast, brownish-olive breast-band, and pale rufous-orange underparts. Additional features include black lores, white eyes, rufous-orange forehead, and indistinct grey panel on wing. In flight, shows broad white tips to tail feathers. Juvenile is similar to adult, but has less distinct breast-band and paler rufous-buff belly and flanks. **Voice** Wheezy call and a variety of squeals, hisses and shrill, squeaky laughter. **HH** Broadleaved and mixed forest and secondary growth.



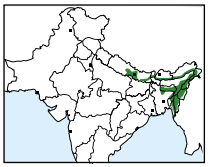
White-crested Laughingthrush *Garrulax leucolophus* 28 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Large, with white crest and black mask. Also, contrasting white throat and upper breast, grey nape, chestnut mantle and band across lower breast, and dark olive-brown wings and tail. **Voice** Frequent bursts of cackling laughter. **HH** Broadleaved forest and secondary growth.



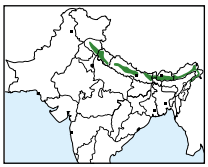
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax monileger* 27 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Very similar to Greater, with white supercilium, black necklace, rufous-orange flanks, greyish-white panel on wing, and bold white tips to largely blackish outer tail feathers. Smaller than Greater with finer, dark bill, yellow eye with dark eye-ring, dark lores, and brownish (rather than slate-grey) legs and feet. Lower black border of ear-coverts does not extend to bill, and white throat is bordered with rufous-orange adjacent to necklace. Has narrower necklace thinning and often almost obscured by rufous at centre (although necklace can be uniformly broad on some birds), and white of breast sides extends as crescent beneath black necklace. Also has olive-brown (not dark grey) primary coverts which are concolorous with rest of coverts. Juvenile similar, but with dusky necklace. **Voice** Loud, mellow *tee-too-ka-kew-kew-kew* song. **HH** Moist broadleaved forest and secondary growth.



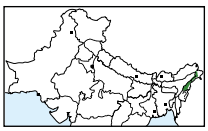
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush *Garrulax pectoralis* 29 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Larger than Lesser Necklaced, with stouter (paler-based) bill, dark eye and yellow eye-ring, complete black moustachial stripe (bordering either black or white, or streaked black-and-white ear-coverts), uniform buff or white throat without two-toned appearance, blackish primary coverts which contrast with mantle and wings, broader necklace which is clearly defined at centre, and slate-grey (rather than brownish) legs and feet. As Lesser Necklaced, shows broad white tip to blackish outer tail in flight. **Voice** Loud *what-what-who-who* song. **HH** Moist broadleaved forest and secondary growth.



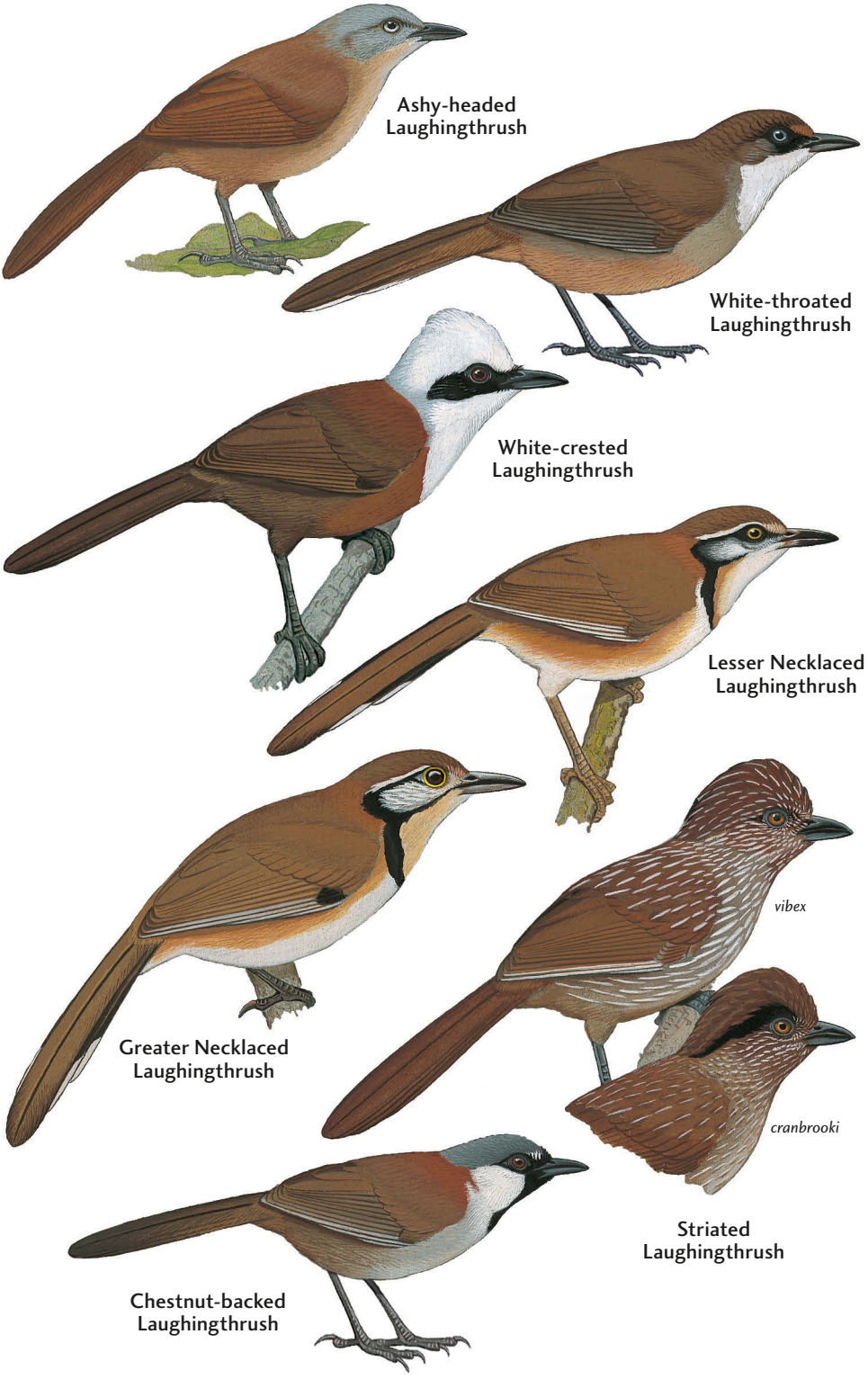
Striated Laughingthrush *Garrulax striatus* 28 cm

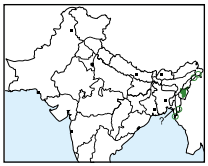
Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Large with stout black bill and floppy crest, giving rise to dome-headed appearance. Chestnut crown, russet upperparts and brownish underparts are profusely covered with white to buffish-white streaking. Wings are more rufous-brown, with greyish-white panel. Lack of dark barring on wings and tail helps to distinguish from the barwings. *G. s. cranbrooki* (NE) has broad black stripe behind the eye, not shown by other subspecies in the subcontinent, and white streaking on crown is indistinct or absent and white streaking on mantle and underparts is much finer. **Voice** Variety of whistling, gurgling calls and a soft *poor-poor*. **HH** Broadleaved forest.



Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush *Garrulax nuchalis* 23 cm

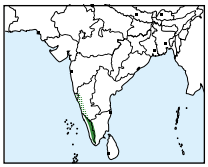
Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Small laughingthrush with white ear-coverts and sides of throat, white spot on forecrown, black forehead and lores, black chin and centre of throat, blue-grey crown, bright rufous mantle, and grey breast. Shows diffuse blackish terminal band to tail. **Voice** Rich whistled 4–5 note song. **HH** Scrub-covered ravines.


Ashy-headed Laughingthrush
White-throated Laughingthrush
White-crested Laughingthrush
Lesser Necklaced Laughingthrush
Greater Necklaced Laughingthrush
vibex
cranbrooki
Striated Laughingthrush
Chestnut-backed Laughingthrush



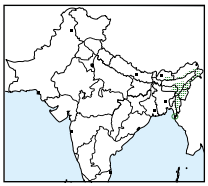
Yellow-throated Laughingthrush *Garrulax galbanus* 23 cm

Resident. Hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Rufous-vented Laughingthrush by greyish-olive flanks and yellowish lower belly and vent, pale olive-brown upperparts, paler grey crown and nape, greyish tail becoming blacker towards the tip (with broad white tips), noticeable black chin, greyish wing panel, and greyish legs and feet. **Voice** A frequently uttered feeble call. **HH** Tall grass with trees and bushes, also edges of dense evergreen broadleaved forest.



Wynaad Laughingthrush *Garrulax delesserti* 23 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** From other laughingthrushes occurring in the peninsula by noticeable yellowish or pink lower mandible, black mask with slightly paler slate-grey crown and nape, chestnut-brown back and wing-coverts, white throat and greyish breast and belly, rufous vent, and blackish-brown tail. **Voice** Frenzied, discordant series of screeches, squeals and cracked rattles from a flock; penetrating nasal whistling song of two to four descending notes, *tree-tree-true*. **HH** Moist broadleaved evergreen forest and cardamom sholas.

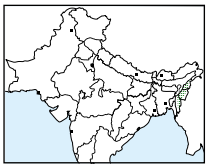


Rufous-vented Laughingthrush *Garrulax gularis* 23 cm

Resident. E Himalayan foothills, hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Yellow-throated by rufous flanks and vent, rufous-brown upperparts, rufous outer tail feathers (lacking white at tip) contrasting with brown central feathers (which are darker blackish-brown towards the tip), grey sides to breast, darker grey crown and nape, yellow chin (with a tiny amount of black at base of bill), and orange legs and feet. Juvenile is similar to adult, but has blackish crown and rufous markings on grey breast. **Voice** A loud whistle and cackling laughter. **HH** Dense evergreen undergrowth.

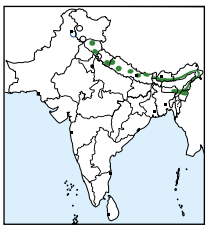
Variegated Laughingthrush *Garrulax variegatus* 24 cm

Resident. W and C Himalayas. **ID** A complex-patterned, mainly grey and olive laughingthrush without spotting or scaling. Plumage characteristics include rufous-buff forehead and malar stripe, black mask and centre of throat, rufous greater coverts, black primary coverts and patch on secondaries, rufous vent, and grey subterminal band and white tip to tail. *G. v. similis* (W Himalayas) has grey wing panel and outertail feathers. *G. v. variegatus* (C and E Himalayas) has olive-tinged upperparts and golden-olive wing panel and outer tail feathers. **Voice** Loud, penetrating whistle *pit-we-weer*. **HH** Forest undergrowth and rhododendron shrubberies.



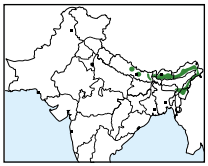
Moustached Laughingthrush *Garrulax cineraceus* 22 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Small, mainly greyish olive-brown laughingthrush, distinguished by greyish-buff supercilium and ear-coverts, black eye-stripe, crown and broad moustachial stripe, the latter breaking up into black streaking on sides of throat, black subterminal bands and white tips to tertials and secondaries, grey panel on wing with black primary-covert patch, and white-tipped black subterminal tail-band. **Voice** Song is a loud *du-duuid*, and a variety of low, rather musical calls. **HH** Dense undergrowth in moist forest and secondary growth.



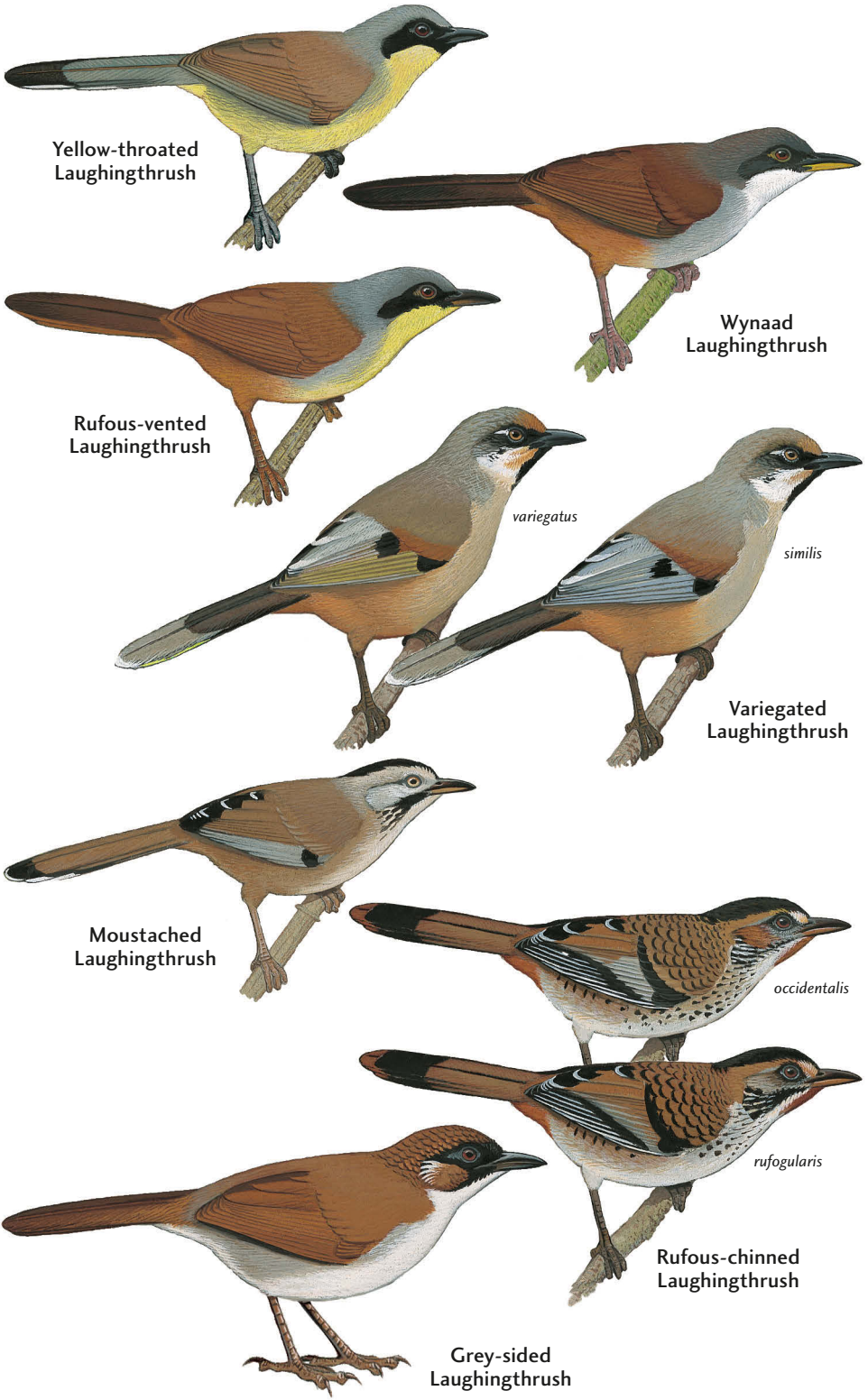
Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush *Garrulax rufogularis* 22 cm

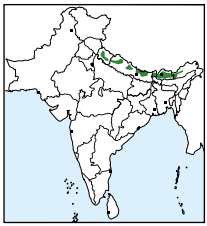
Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Irregular black spotting and barring on upperparts and upperparts. Has rufous chin and upper throat, blackish cap, diffuse black moustachial stripe, buff to rufous lores, irregular black and grey (or buff) banding across wings, and black subterminal band and rufous tip to tail. *G. r. occidentalis* (W and C Himalayas) has olive-brown upperparts, rufous ear-coverts and buffish-olive supercilium; nominate (E Himalayas) has rufous olive-brown upperparts and tail, grey ear-coverts and dull rufous supercilium. *G. r. rufitinctus* (Meghalaya) with pale rufous (rather than buff) lores, entire throat rufous, buff rather than grey panelling on wing, and buff (rather than greyish-olive) wash to breast and belly. **Voice** Squeals, chuckles and chatters; pleasant whistling song *swee-tu...tu-tu-wee-u*. **HH** Dense undergrowth in subtropical forest.



Grey-sided Laughingthrush *Garrulax caerulatus* 25 cm

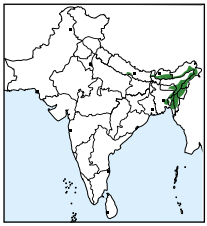
Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Rufous brown and white, with grey breast sides and flanks, bluish-slate eye-patch, black face and variable white cheek patch, black scaling on crown, and more rufescent edges to flight feathers and tail. *G. c. subcaerulatus* (Meghalaya) has extensive white cheek patch and white tips to outer tail feathers. **Voice** Squealing *klee-loo*, *ovik-chor-r-r*, loud *joy-to-weep*, *poo-ka-ree*, *new-jeriko* and a *chik-chi-chik* alarm call. **HH** Undergrowth in dense, moist forest and bamboo thickets.


Yellow-throated Laughingthrush
Wynaad Laughingthrush
Rufous-vented Laughingthrush
variegatus
similis
Variegated Laughingthrush
Moustached Laughingthrush
occidentalis
rufogularis
Rufous-chinned Laughingthrush
Grey-sided Laughingthrush



Spotted Laughingthrush *Garrulax ocellatus* 32 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Large, chestnut laughingthrush, with profuse black-based white spotting on chestnut upperparts. Also blackish cap, rufous supercilium, lores and chin, deep chestnut ear-coverts, blackish throat diffusing into black barring on breast, buff lower breast and belly, chestnut-and-black wings with grey panel and with white tips to primaries, and white tips to chestnut, grey and black tail. **Voice** Gives a whistled *tu wee tu wee tu witt-o* song. **HH** Undergrowth and bamboo in broadleaved and coniferous forest and rhododendron shrubberies.



Rufous-necked Laughingthrush *Garrulax ruficollis* 23 cm

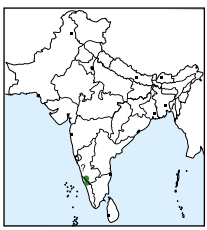
Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Small, mainly olive-brown laughingthrush, with prominent rufous patch on sides of neck, and black face and throat. Also has grey crown and nape, and rufous vent and centre of lower belly. Tail is uniform brownish-black. Juvenile is duller, with browner crown. **Voice** An incredibly varied and vocal songster. Vocalizations include shrill whistles that run up the scale, scolding whistles, descending trills, chittering babbles and hoarse squawks. **HH** Forest edges, secondary growth and bushes in cultivation.

Spot-breasted Laughingthrush *Garrulax merulinus* 22 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Dark-coloured, long-billed and short-tailed laughingthrush. From other laughingthrushes by bold brown spotting on buff or rufous-buff throat and breast, along with narrow buff supercilium behind eye, uniform rufescent olive-brown upperparts, wings and tail, and olive-brown flanks. **Voice** Has a variety of clear, beautiful notes and a repeated coughing chuckle. **HH** Dense undergrowth in heavy moist forest, bamboo thickets and overgrown forest clearings.

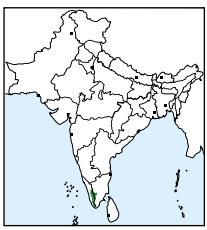
White-browed Laughingthrush *Garrulax sannio* 23 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Small, mainly brown laughingthrush with broad buffish-white supercilium, lores and patch on cheeks, chestnut-brown crown and nape, cinnamon-brown ear-coverts, sides of neck and throat, dirty buff underparts, uniform olive-brown upperparts and tail, and rufous undertail-coverts. **Voice** Gives harsh, shrill, explosive *tcheu* or *tchow* notes. Alarm call is a harsh *chrrrrik*. **HH** Undergrowth in dense forest, secondary growth, scrub-covered hillsides and bamboo thickets.



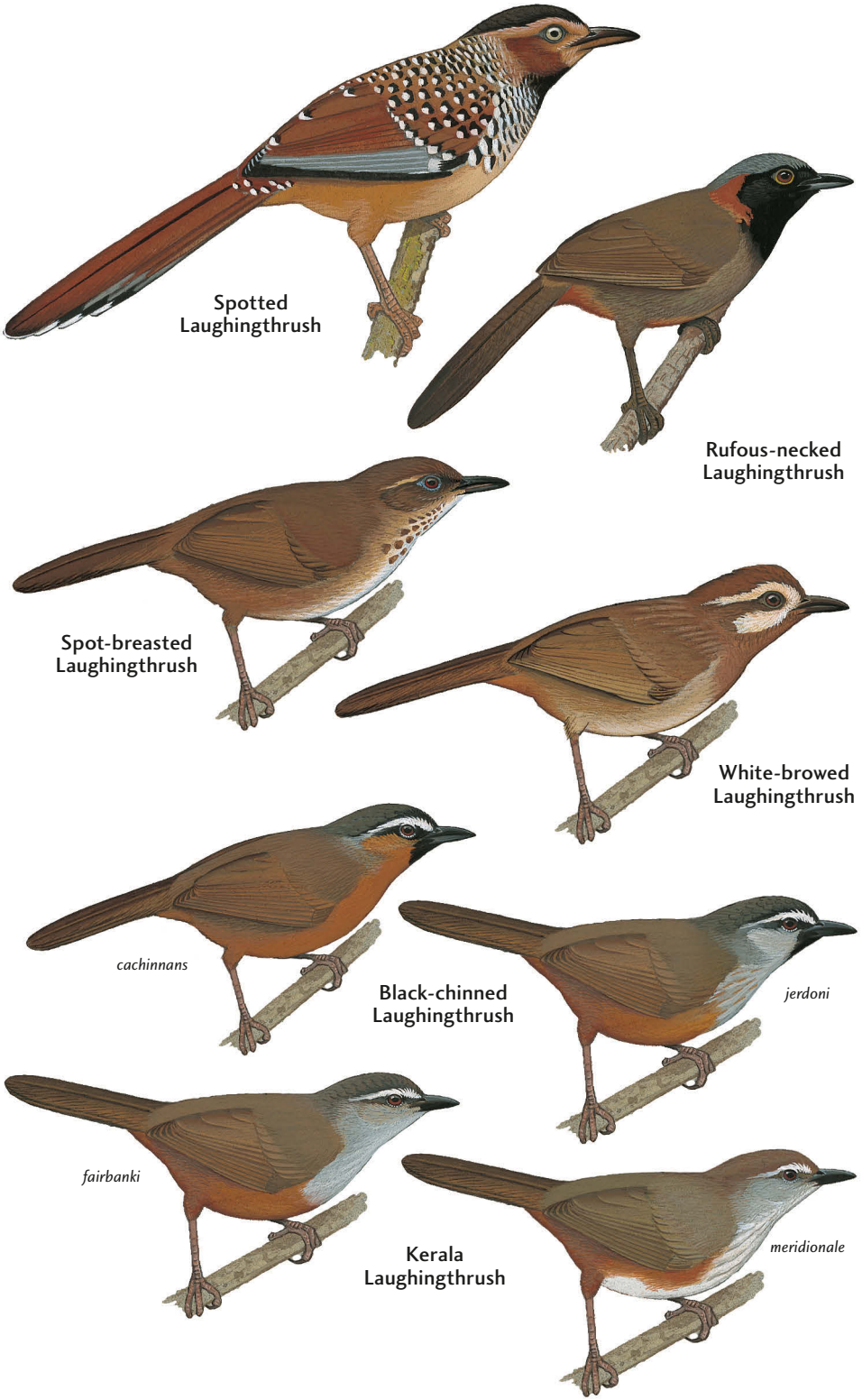
Black-chinned Laughingthrush *Garrulax cachinnans* 20 cm

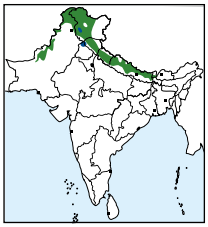
Resident. Western Ghats from Goa south to N Kerala and NW Tamil Nadu. **ID** Small, with bright rufous underparts, white supercilium contrasting with dark grey-brown crown, and black eye-stripe, lores and chin. *G. c. jerdoni* has grey ear-coverts, throat and breast compared with *G. c. cachinnans*, which has rufous in these areas. **Voice** Utters a laughing *pee-ko-ko* and a harsh *ke-ke-ke*. **HH** Dense undergrowth in forest, also gardens and patches of scrub. Habitat of *S. c. jerdoni* is linked to that of wild raspberry: undergrowth and low bushes, thickets growing on stream banks and tea and cardamom plantations. Globally threatened. **AN** Nilgiri Laughingthrush.



Kerala Laughingthrush *Garrulax fairbanki* 20 cm

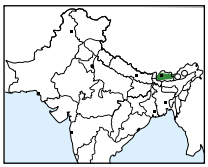
Resident. Western Ghats in C and S Kerala and neighbouring Tamil Nadu. **ID** Lacks the black chin of Black-chinned. *G. f. meridionale* (S Kerala) is similar to nominate (SW Ghats), but has shorter white supercilium which barely extends behind eye, paler brown crown, greyer upperparts, grey-streaked white breast, and white belly with rufous restricted to the flanks. **Voice** Songs include short, mellow, clear notes. **HH** Thick undergrowth in broadleaved evergreen forest, secondary growth and tea plantations. **TN** Formerly treated as Grey-breasted Laughingthrush *G. jerdoni*, but *jerdoni* is now considered to be a race of Black-chinned Laughingthrush *G. cachinnans*.


Spotted Laughingthrush
Rufous-necked Laughingthrush
Spot-breasted Laughingthrush
White-browed Laughingthrush
cachinnans
Black-chinned Laughingthrush
jerdoni
fairbanki
Kerala Laughingthrush
meridionale



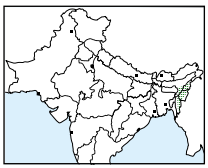
Streaked Laughingthrush *Garrulax lineatus* 20 cm

Resident. Pakistan hills and Himalayas. **ID** Small, finely streaked laughingthrush. Has fine dark streaking on crown and nape, fine white streaking on mantle and underparts, and grey-tipped olive-brown tail with diffuse black subterminal band on outer feathers. Four subspecies are recognised: nominate (Kashmir to E Uttarakhand) has greyish cast to crown and nape, rufous ear-coverts, grey underparts with white shaft streaking bordered by rufous-brown, and largely rufous-brown wings. Races to the west paler and greyer, with duller ear-coverts. *G. l. setafer* (Nepal) darker and more rufous, and rufous ear-coverts are less prominent. **Voice** Song is a short rapid trill followed by a loud ringing whistle. **HH** Hill-scrub, secondary growth and cultivation.



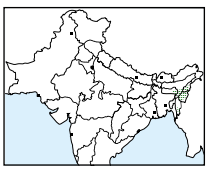
Bhutan Laughingthrush *Garrulax imbricatus* 21 cm

Resident. Bhutan to W Arunachal Pradesh. **ID** Similar to Streaked but more uniformly brown in coloration, with more uniform brown crown and nape (with only indistinct darker shaft streaking), grey-brown (rather than rufous) ear-coverts with white streaking, brown underparts finely streaked with white, more olive-brown coloration to wings, and much narrower white tail tips. **Voice** Similar to Streaked but shorter. **HH** Scrub in open forest, forest edge and secondary growth.



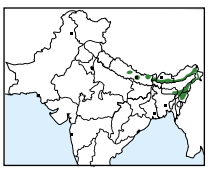
Striped Laughingthrush *Garrulax virgatus* 25 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Medium-sized laughingthrush with white streaking on upperparts and underparts. Has broad feathery buffish supercilium and patch on ear-coverts, chestnut throat contrasting with rufous-buff breast and belly, uniform olive-brown tail, and white-tipped chestnut wing-coverts. **Voice** Two territorial calls given antiphonally by pair-members: 1) males? a plaintive, hurried *chwi-pieu* 2) females? a loud staccato, rattling trill. Calls include harsh *chit* and *chrrrrrr*. **HH** Dense undergrowth in moist, broadleaved evergreen forest and thick secondary growth.



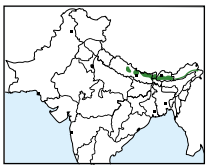
Brown-capped Laughingthrush *Garrulax austeni* 22 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** A rufous-brown laughingthrush, with a plain brownish face and throat, rufous-brown crown and nape with irregular buff shaft streaking, barred/scaled rufous-brown and white underparts, rufous olive-brown mantle (lacking black spotting), and rufous-brown wings with white tips to greater coverts, tertials and secondaries. In flight, tail shows narrow white tips to blackish outer feathers, with rufous-brown central feathers. **Voice** Sings with loud, plaintive, jolly phrases *whit-wee-wi-weeoo*, *whit-wi-chooee* etc. **HH** Forest undergrowth, bushes and bamboo thickets at the edges and in clearings of forest, and in ravines.



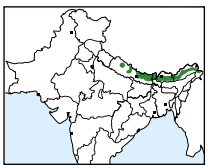
Blue-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax squamatus* 25 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** From Scaly Laughingthrush by black supercilium, silvery-blue outer webs to primaries forming prominent wing-panel (which is brighter and more extensive than on Scaly Laughingthrush), largely rufous wings with darker outer edge, chestnut-brown flanks and vent, rufous uppertail-coverts, and rufous-tipped dark tail. Has striking white eye (brown in juvenile). Male has grey cast to crown, and blacker tail. Female has a browner crown and dark olive tail. **Voice** Song is a *cur-white-to-go* and alarm a scratchy *seek*. **HH** Dense undergrowth in moist broadleaved evergreen forest and bamboo thickets.



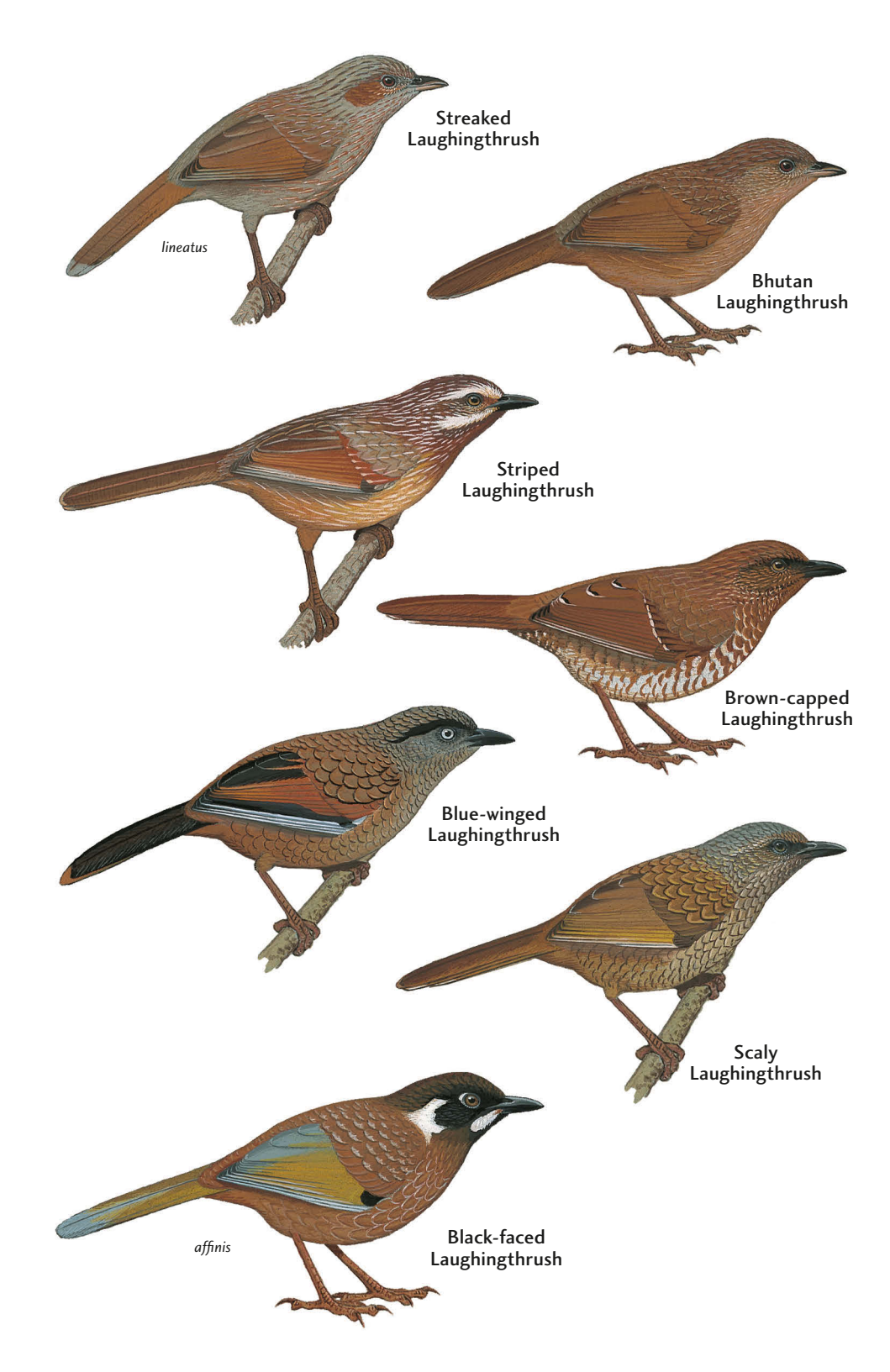
Scaly Laughingthrush *Garrulax subunicolor* 23 cm

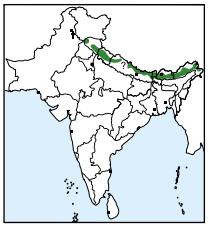
Himalayas. **ID** From Blue-winged by more uniform head (lacking black supercilium), yellowish-olive wing patch, less extensive and paler blue-grey panel on primaries, olive belly and vent, olive uppertail covers and central tail feathers which are concolorous with rest of upperparts, and white tips to outer tail feathers. Eye can be strikingly yellow or dark. **Voice** Usual song is a two- or three-part wolf whistle (descends on last note) that is buzzy and more slurred than several similar laughingthrush songs. **HH** Thick undergrowth in moist forest and rhododendron shrubberies.



Black-faced Laughingthrush *Garrulax affinis* 25 cm

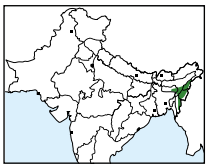
Resident. Himalayas. **ID** A distinctive, mainly rufous-brown laughingthrush with black supercilium and ear-coverts, and white malar stripe and patches on sides of neck. Has black chin and centre of throat, greyish-white scaling on breast, variable grey mottling on upperparts, olive-yellow panel on mainly blue-grey wings, black primary-covert patch, and olive-yellow tail with broad grey tip. *G. a. bethelae* (E Himalayas) has deeper rufous-brown underparts with indistinct greyish fringes to breast compared with the nominate (W and C Nepal). **Voice** Song is a loud *tew-wee-to-whee-to-whee-you-whee*; alarm is a repeated, rapid dze. **HH** Forest; also shrubberies above the tree line.


Streaked Laughingthrush
lineatus
Bhutan Laughingthrush
Striped Laughingthrush
Brown-capped Laughingthrush
Blue-winged Laughingthrush
Scaly Laughingthrush
affinis
Black-faced Laughingthrush



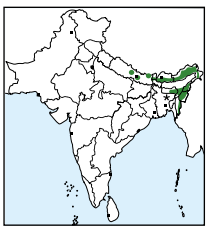
Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus* 28 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Common features across range are chestnut on head, dark throat, dark spotting/scaling on mantle and breast, mainly olive-yellow wings with maroon greater coverts (often obscured), and olive-yellow sides to tail. There is considerable subspecies variation in region. For example, nominate (W Himalayas) has chestnut crown and nape, chestnut ear-coverts with white fringes and variable black spotting, and buffish-olive breast and belly. *G. e. nigrimentus* (E Himalayas) has chestnut forehead and nape but black-streaked grey crown, blackish ear-coverts with white fringes, and rufous-brown lower throat and breast. **Voice** Song is a repeated *to-ree-rear*; alarm is a *m-u-r-r*. **HH** Undergrowth in forest and bushes in cultivation.



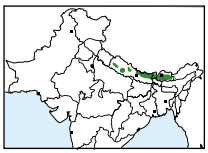
Assam Laughingthrush *Garrulax chrysopterus* 26 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Compared with Chestnut-crowned, nominate (Meghalaya) has brighter crown, grey supercilium and ear-covert streaking, chestnut throat merging into rufous breast, and diffuse brown spotting on mantle and breast. *G. c. godwini* (S Assam and Manipur) darker with bold markings on mantle and breast. *G. c. erythrolaemum* (E Manipur and Mizoram) has chestnut crown and ear-coverts and greyer mantle. **Voice** Songs differ from Chestnut-crowned in their lower pitch, mellower quality, and greater complexity and length. **HH** Forest and bamboo.



Rusty-fronted Barwing *Actinodura egertoni* 23 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Slimmer and longer-tailed than other barwings, and best told by combination of rufous 'front' to head, stout yellowish bill, uniform grey crown and nape contrasting with mantle (lacking prominent streaking), greyish-buff (rather than rufous-brown) barring on wings, and rufous-brown and more diffusely barred tail (lacking blackish terminal band). Juvenile has crown and nape rufous-brown and concolorous with mantle, making rufous forehead less prominent. Four subspecies in the subcontinent, differing slightly in coloration of mantle (olive-brown to rufous-brown) and in greyness of crown and ear-coverts. **Voice** Three-note whistle *ti-ti-ta*, the first accentuated. **HH** Undergrowth in moist forest.

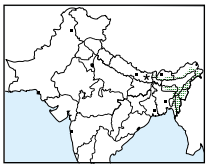


Hoary-throated Barwing *Actinodura nipalensis* 20 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** From other barwings by unstreaked greyish throat and breast, prominent buffish-white shaft streaking on dark brown crest, grey ear-coverts contrasting with dark moustachial stripe, and diffuse white streaking on mantle and scapulars. Also has shorter, more strongly barred tail, and lacks rufous 'front' of Rusty-fronted. **Voice** One or two whistling notes followed by a soft trill; also a series of long, whistling notes. Has a jay-like alarm note. **HH** Mossy forest.

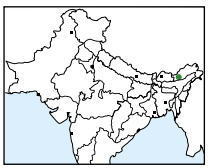
Streak-throated Barwing *Actinodura waldeni* 20 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Two races; *A. w. daflaensis* (E Himalayas) has greyish-white underparts diffusely streaked with brownish-grey, and is similar in appearance to Hoary-throated: best told by streaking on underparts, lack of bold shaft streaking on crown and nape (crown feathers have narrow pale fringes), poorly defined moustachial stripe, and uniform rufous-brown mantle. *A. w. waldeni* (hills south of the Brahmaputra R) has tawny-brown underparts with fulvous streaks. Lacks rusty 'front' to head of Rusty-fronted, and further differences are brown crown and nape faintly streaked with buff, streaked underparts, and blackish terminal band to shorter tail. **Voice** Songs are loud, rich, throaty whistles and include strongly slurred first notes. **HH** Mossy forest.



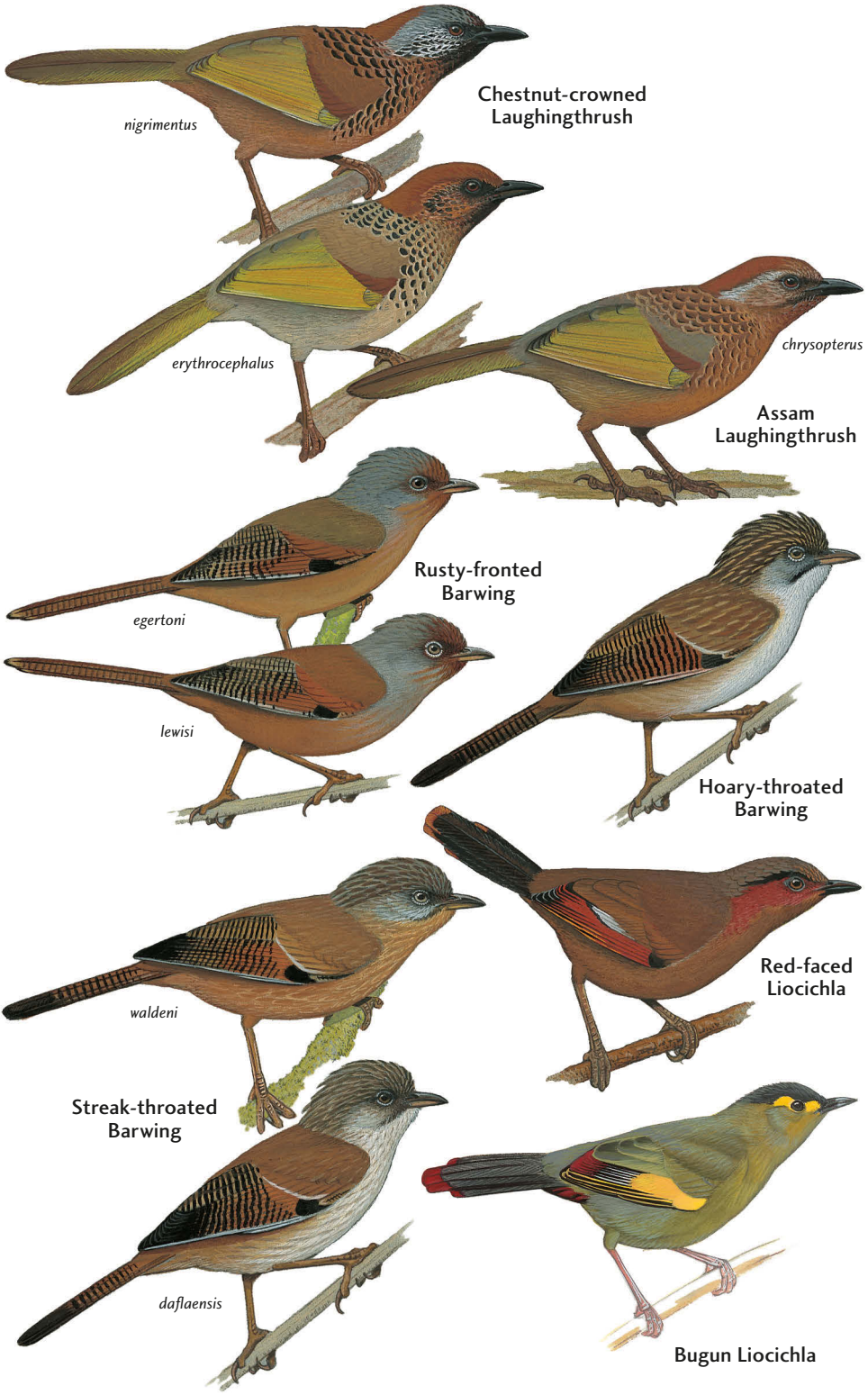
Red-faced Liocichla *Liocichla phoenicea* 23 cm

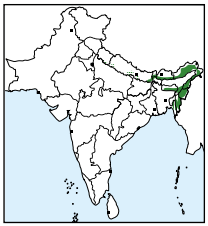
Resident. E Himalayas and NE India. **ID** A striking, mainly olive-brown liocichla with crimson ear-coverts and sides to neck, black supercilium, crimson panel in wings, crimson undertail-coverts, and rufous-orange tip to black tail (with undertail appearing entirely rufous-orange from below). **Voice** Loud, plaintive, cheerful song of three to eight notes: *chewi-ter-twi-twitoo*; *chi-cho-choee-wi-chu-chooee* etc; also a mewing *jji-uuuu*. **HH** Undergrowth in moist forest and thickets.



Bugun Liocichla *Liocichla bugunorum* 22 cm

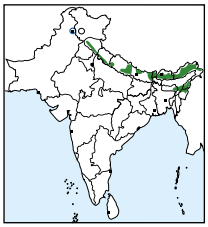
Resident. Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh. **ID** Olive with a black cap, prominent orange-yellow lores, and yellow post-ocular spot. Yellow, red and white patches in wings; black tail with red tip, and crimson undertail-coverts. Flesh-coloured feet. Bill is darker on the basal half and pale horn towards tip. **Voice** Fluty calls on a descending scale, slightly slurred and inflected at the end *weee–keew, yu–weee–keew, wieuu–weei–tuui–tuuuw–tuoow*. **HH** Disturbed hillsides with dense shrubbery and small trees and bushes. Globally threatened.


Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush
nigrimentus
erythrocephalus
chrysopterus
Assam Laughingthrush
Rusty-fronted Barwing
egertoni
lewisi
Hoary-throated Barwing
Red-faced Liocichla
waldeni
Streak-throated Barwing
daflaensis
Bugun Liocichla



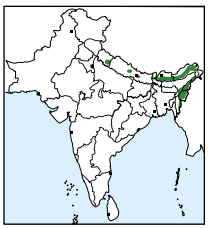
Silver-eared Mesia *Mesia argentauris* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Striking with orange-yellow bill, black cap and moustachial stripe, silver-grey ear patch, orange-yellow throat and breast, crimson and yellow wing-panels, and yellow sides to black tail. Male has crimson uppertail- and undertail-coverts. Female has olive-yellow uppertail-coverts and orange-buff undertail-coverts. Juvenile has brown crown. **Voice** Cheerful descending whistled song *che tchu-tchu che-rit*; calls include a flat piping *pe-pe-pe-pe-pe*. **HH** Bushes and forest undergrowth in evergreen biotope, especially in more open areas. **TN** Formerly placed in *Leiothrix*.



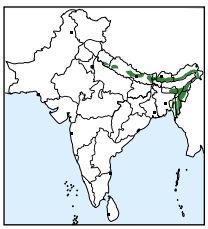
Red-billed Leiothrix *Leiothrix lutea* 13 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Stocky with domed head and forked tail. Red bill, creamy-white face, dark moustachial stripe, and yellow throat merging into orange breast. The forked black tail is partly overlaid by long, white-tipped uppertail-coverts. Has crimson, orange and yellow edges to wing feathers (crimson edges lacking in female). Female is duller than male, including paler throat and breast. Juvenile has buff throat and grey breast and flanks (lacking yellow on underparts of adult). *L. l. kumaiensis* (W Himalayas) has greyer upperparts than *L. l. calipyga* (C and E Himalayas). **Voice** Rapid, thrush-like song of up to 15 notes; rattled calls, a clear piping *pe-pe-pe-pa* and rapid *pu-pu-pu-pu-pu*. **HH** Undergrowth in broadleaved forest.



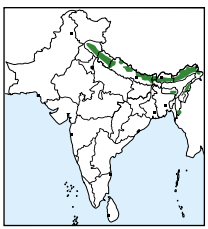
Himalayan Cutia *Cutia nipalensis* 20 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** A stocky, slow-moving nuthatch-like babbler. Male has blue-grey crown and blue-black mask, rufous mantle, white underparts with bold blackish barring on buffier flanks, and blue-grey wing-panel. Female has duller grey crown, brown mask, and black-streaked olive-brown mantle. Both sexes have black tail just showing as dark tip beyond long uppertail-coverts, and bright orange legs and feet. Juvenile is duller than respective adult, and black barring is much reduced (restricted to lower flanks). **Voice** A loud ringing series of 10–15 sharp *toot* notes, falling off towards end; calls include an upturned *hweet* and scolding *trt*. **HH** Mossy broadleaved evergreen and oak forests.



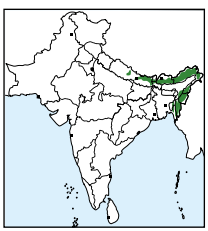
Blue-winged Siva *Siva cyanouroptera* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Slim babbler with long square-ended tail. Although colourful, can look drab at long range, with dark-capped, pale-faced appearance, fulvous-brown mantle, vinous-grey underparts, and blue panels in wings and tail. At close range has pale violet-grey crown and nape, with violet-blue streaking on forehead and sides of crown. White underside to dark-bordered tail striking when viewed from below. Juvenile has brownish-grey crown and nape, and buffish underparts. **Voice** A clear, whistled *pi-piu* with emphasis on first note and a loud *swit*. **HH** Bushes in broadleaved or mixed forest and well-wooded country. **TN** Formerly placed in *Minla*.



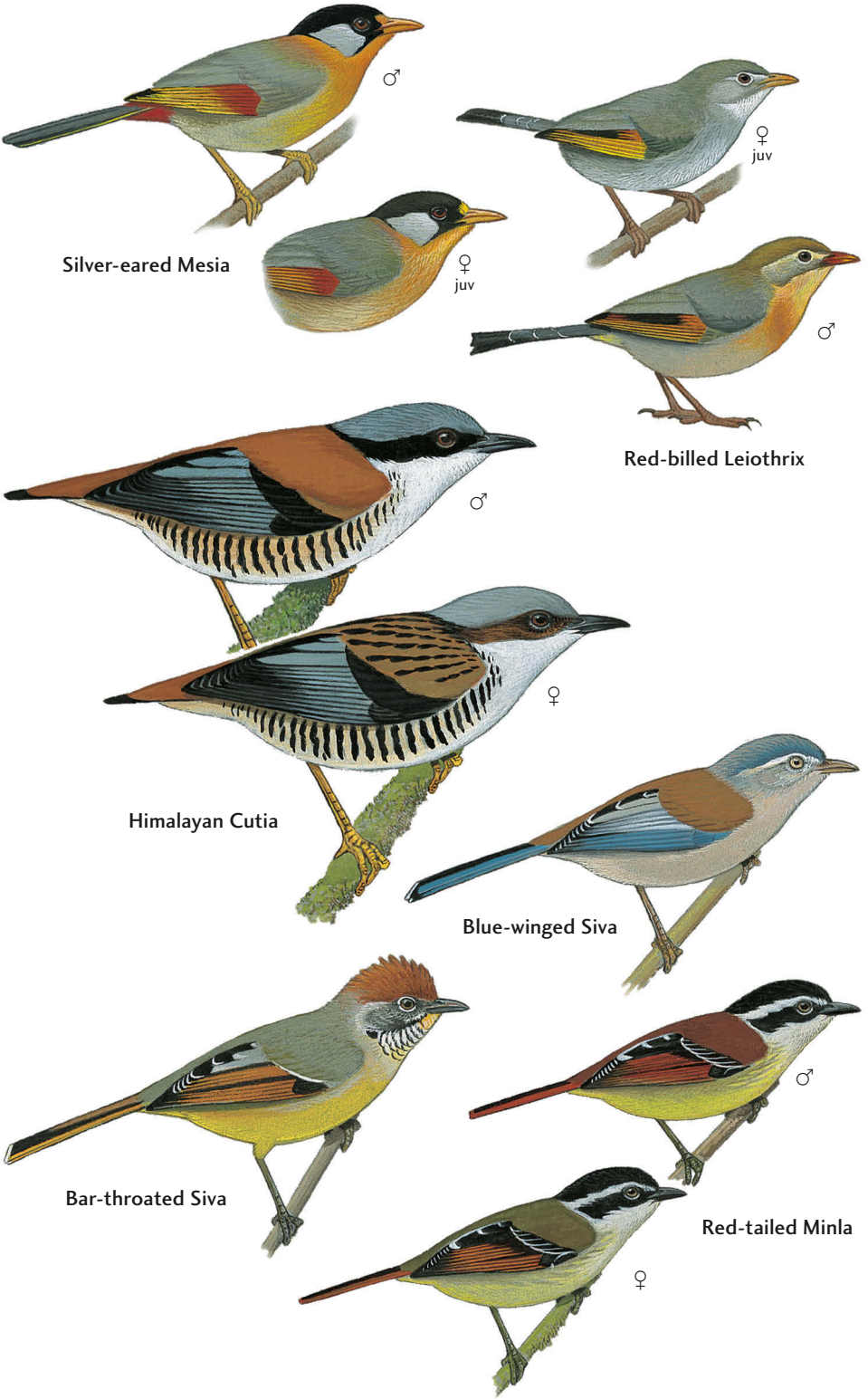
Bar-throated Siva *Siva strigula* 14 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Has orange crown and nape, grey ear-coverts with black moustachial stripe, and black-and-white barring on throat. Upperparts are olive-brown and underparts are yellowish. Has black primary-covert patch, grey fringes to black-centred tertials, and orange-yellow wing-panel. Shows orange-yellow at sides and tip of tail when viewed from below. Juvenile has less distinct throat barring and duller crown and nape. **Voice** A slurred whistle *jo-ey, joey dii*; the last note highest; also a ringing metallic *chew*. **HH** Broadleaved and mixed forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Minla*. **AN** Chestnut-tailed Minla.



Red-tailed Minla *Minla ignotincta* 14 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** A slim, long-tailed babbler. Has black crown and ear-coverts, broad white supercilium, and striking pale eye. Also prominent white tips to black tertials, and yellowish underparts. Male differs from female in having deep maroon-brown (rather than olive-brown) upperparts, red (rather than orange-yellow) wing-panel, and red (rather than pinkish) sides and tip of tail. **Voice** A variety of calls including a high-pitched *wi-wi-wi*, a loud repeated *chik*, high-pitched *tsi* and tit-like *whi-whi-te-sik-sik*. **HH** Moist, dense broadleaved or mixed forest.


♂
Silver-eared Mesia
♀
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♂
Red-billed Leiothrix
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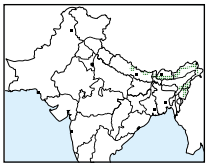
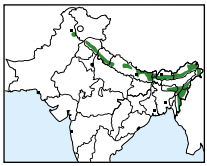
♀
Himalayan Cutia
Blue-winged Siva
Bar-throated Siva
♂
Red-tailed Minla
♀



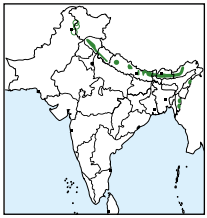
Black-headed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius rufiventer* 17 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Male has black hood, grey throat and breast, rufous-brown mantle, olive-yellow patch on sides of breast, pinkish-buff underparts, and rufous tips to the black tertials and tail. Female is duller with grey on hood, olive-green mantle (variably marked with black), and olive wings and tail. Rufous uppertail-coverts, grey throat and breast, brownish-pink underparts, and rufous tip to tail help separate female from female White-browed Shrike-babbler. **Voice** A bright, repeated *pew-pew-peee-tu* song. **HH** Dense, moist broadleaved forest.



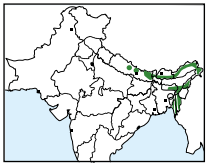
White-browed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis* 16 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Male has black cap with white supercilium, grey upperparts, white tips to black wings, rufous tertials, and whitish underparts with pinkish flanks. Female has grey cap, olive mantle, and largely yellowish-olive wings and tail. Larger size and rufous tertials help separate female from Green. Unmarked mantle, rufous tertial patch, uniform buffish-white underparts, white primary tips, and yellowish tip to tail help to separate female from female Black-headed. **Voice** Song is a rhythmic three or six-noted *yip-yip-yip* or *yip-dip-dip* with stress on first or last note. **HH** Mainly broadleaved forest.



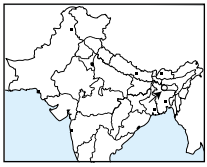
Green Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius xanthochlorus* 13 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Small and stocky with big-headed appearance. Has grey cap, stubby blackish bill, olive-green upperparts, white or yellowish-white greater-covert wing-bar, blackish primary coverts, greyish-white throat and breast, and pale yellow belly. Sexes similar, but female has paler olive-grey crown. Juvenile has olive-brown crown and mantle, paler underparts, and yellowish wing-bar. *P. x. occidentalis* (W Himalayas) has blue-grey crown, which is dark grey on male *P. x. xanthochlorus* (E Himalayas) (although female is much as male *xanthochlorus*). *P. x. hybrida* (hills south of the Brahmaputra River) has a prominent white eye-ring. **Voice** A rapid, tit-like *whee-tee whee-tee whee-tee* song. **HH** Forest.



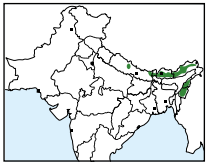
Black-eared Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius melanotis* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Black crescent on ear-coverts is best feature from Chestnut-fronted Shrike-babbler. Male has chestnut throat and breast and white wing-bars. Female has chestnut reduced to malar region, and has buff wing-bars. Juvenile is similar to female, but has olive-brown upperparts (lacking grey patch on nape), and underparts are paler lacking any chestnut. **Voice** A bright *tew wee, tew we tew-wee* song. **HH** Moist broadleaved forest.



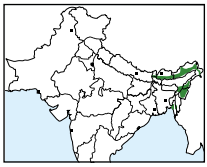
Chestnut-fronted Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aenobarbus* 11 cm

Resident. Meghalaya. **ID** From Black-eared by lack of black border to ear-coverts in both sexes. Also male has dark chestnut forehead and bright yellow forecrown, darker chestnut throat and upper breast, no grey on nape, and silvery-white (not blue-grey) wing-panel. Female not known, but presumably similar to female *P. a. intermedius* (Burma), which differs from female Black-eared in having dull chestnut forehead, no grey hind collar, no chestnut in malar region, and whitish (not yellow) underparts. **Voice** Monotonous *chip-chip-chip* song. **HH** Evergreen forest edge.



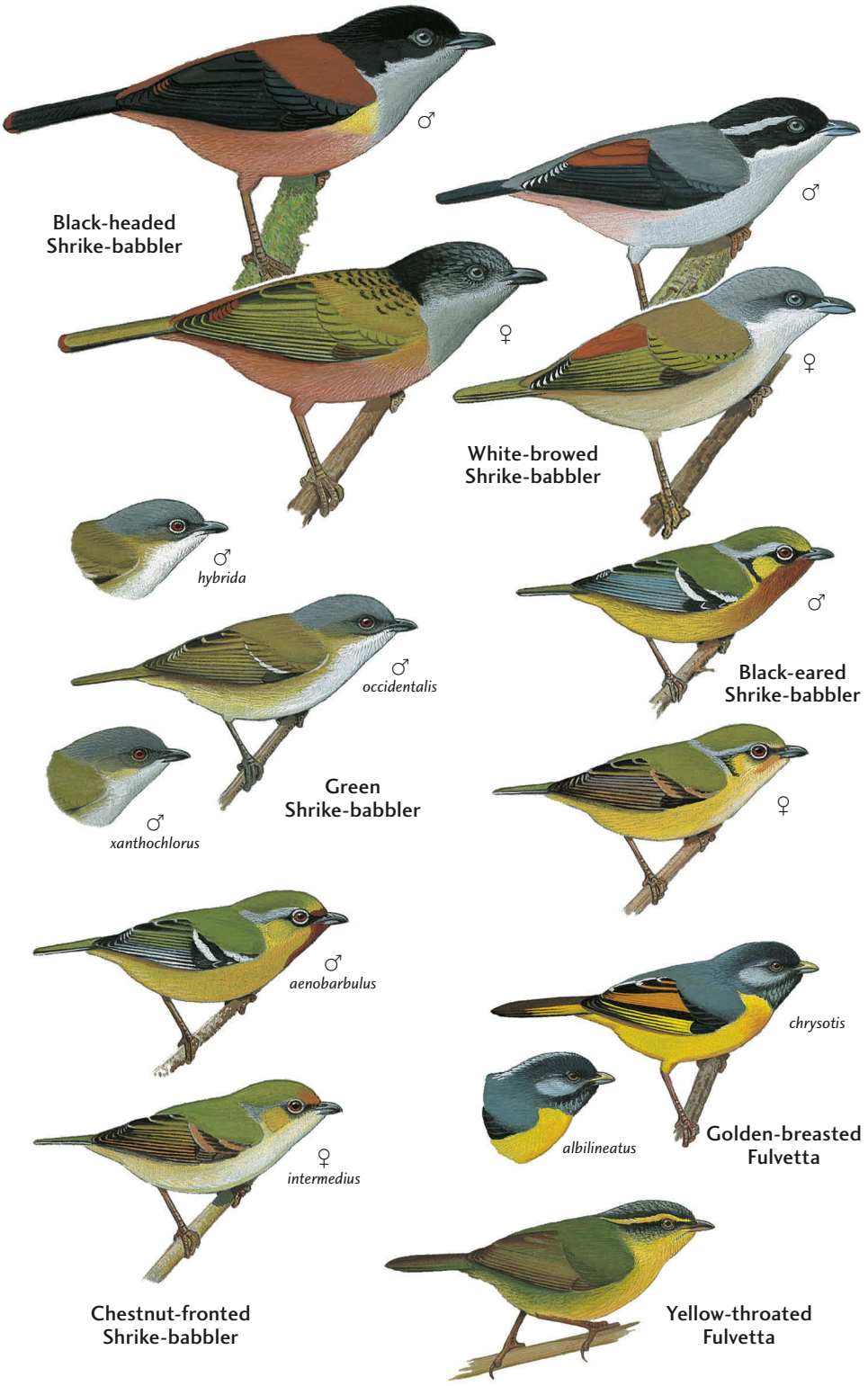
Golden-breasted Fulvetta *Lioparus chrysotis* 11 cm

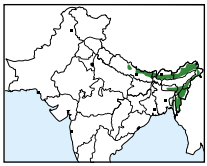
Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Has dark grey head with silver-grey ear-coverts, grey upperparts, golden-yellow underparts, and orange-yellow wing-panel and sides to tail. *L. c. albilineatus* (hills south of the Brahmaputra River) has a white rear crown-stripe. **Voice** A thin high-pitched series of five notes, slightly descending. **HH** Bamboo. **TN** Formerly placed in *Alcippe*.



Yellow-throated Fulvetta *Pseudominla cinerea* 10 cm

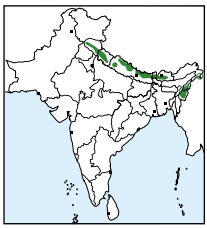
Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Has striking head pattern with prominent yellow supercilium contrasting with black sides to crown. Grey crown is mottled with black, and yellowish ear-coverts heavily mottled with grey. Upperparts are dark olive-green. Throat is yellow becoming more olive on breast and belly and greyish-olive on breast sides and flanks. **Voice** High-pitched, pulsed trill often descending and trailing off. **HH** Undergrowth in moist subtropical forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Alcippe*.


♂
Black-headed
Shrike-babbler
♀
♂
♀
White-browed
Shrike-babbler
♂
hybrida
♂
occidentalis
♂
Black-eared
Shrike-babbler
♂
xanthochlorus
Green
Shrike-babbler
♀
♂
aenobarbulus
chrysotis
albilineatus
Golden-breasted
Fulvetta
♀
intermedius
Chestnut-fronted
Shrike-babbler
Yellow-throated
Fulvetta



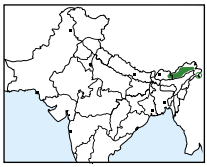
Rufous-winged Fulvetta *Pseudominla castaneceps* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From other fulvettas by combination of dark chestnut crown and nape (streaked with buffish-white), white supercilium contrasting with black eye-stripe, short black moustachial stripe, black band across wing coverts, and rufous wing-panel. Also has unmarked whitish throat and underparts, with buff flanks. **Voice** Usual call is a wheezy, descending trill *tsi-tsi-tsi-tsi-tsirr*. **HH** Moist forest and clearings. **TN** Formerly placed in *Alcippe*.



White-browed Fulvetta *Fulvetta vinipectus* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Variable with broad white supercilium, contrasting with dark crown and ear-coverts, and black and grey panels in wing. Two W and C Himalayan races have unstreaked white throat: *F. v. kangrae* (W Himalayas) has chestnut-brown crown and darker ear-coverts than nominate (C Himalayas), which has duller crown concolorous with ear-coverts. Three eastern races have streaked throat: *F. v. chumbiensis* (E Himalayas) has grey-brown crown and mantle, dark-brown lateral crown-stripes and brown streaking on throat; *F. v. perstriata* (E Arunachal) has blacker ear-coverts and lateral crown stripes, broad reddish-brown streaks on throat, white crescent below eye, and (unlike other races) white supercilium extends to bill; *F. v. austeni* (hills south of Brahmaputra) has brown crown and mantle and reddish-brown lateral crown-stripes and streaking on throat. **Voice** Song a rapid *chit-it-it-it-or-key* and a *tew-tu-tu-wheeee*. **HH** Subalpine shrub and bamboo in forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Alcippe*.

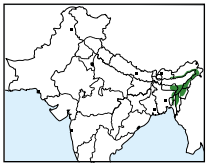


Brown-throated Fulvetta *Fulvetta ludlowi* 11 cm

Resident. E Himalayas. **ID** Lacks broad white supercilium of White-browed. Also lacks obvious dark lateral crown-stripes and has prominent rufous-brown streaking on throat. From Manipur Fulvetta by browner crown and ear-coverts, and more prominent throat streaking. **Voice** Songs include two thin, high-pitched notes followed by a short, lower-pitched trill, repeated every few second. **HH** Bushes and bamboo in rhododendron forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Alcippe*.

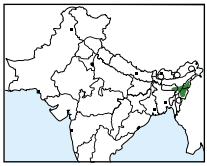
Manipur Fulvetta *Fulvetta manipurensis* 11 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Grey-brown fulvetta with prominent brown lateral crown-stripes and diffuse pinkish-brown streaking on throat. Lacks white supercilium of White-browed. From Brown-throated by greyish ear-coverts and buffish coloration to crown, mantle and breast, and less prominent throat streaking. **Voice** Songs include a repeated high-pitched *si-swu* or *see si-wu*. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen forest, bamboo and bushes. **TN** Formerly placed in *Alcippe* and treated as conspecific with Streak-throated Fulvetta *F. cinereiceps*.



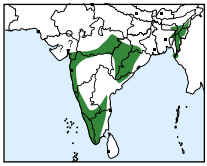
Rufous-throated Fulvetta *Schoeniparus rufogularis* 12 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Strikingly patterned with rufous crown and collar, blackish lateral crown-stripes, broad white supercilium contrasting with brown ear-coverts, white throat and breast, and uniform brown wings. **Voice** Sings with fairly loud, shrill quickly delivered *wich-wichu-wichoi; wi-chuw-i-chewi-cheeu*. **HH** Bamboo stands and undergrowth in moist, tropical evergreen forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Alcippe*.



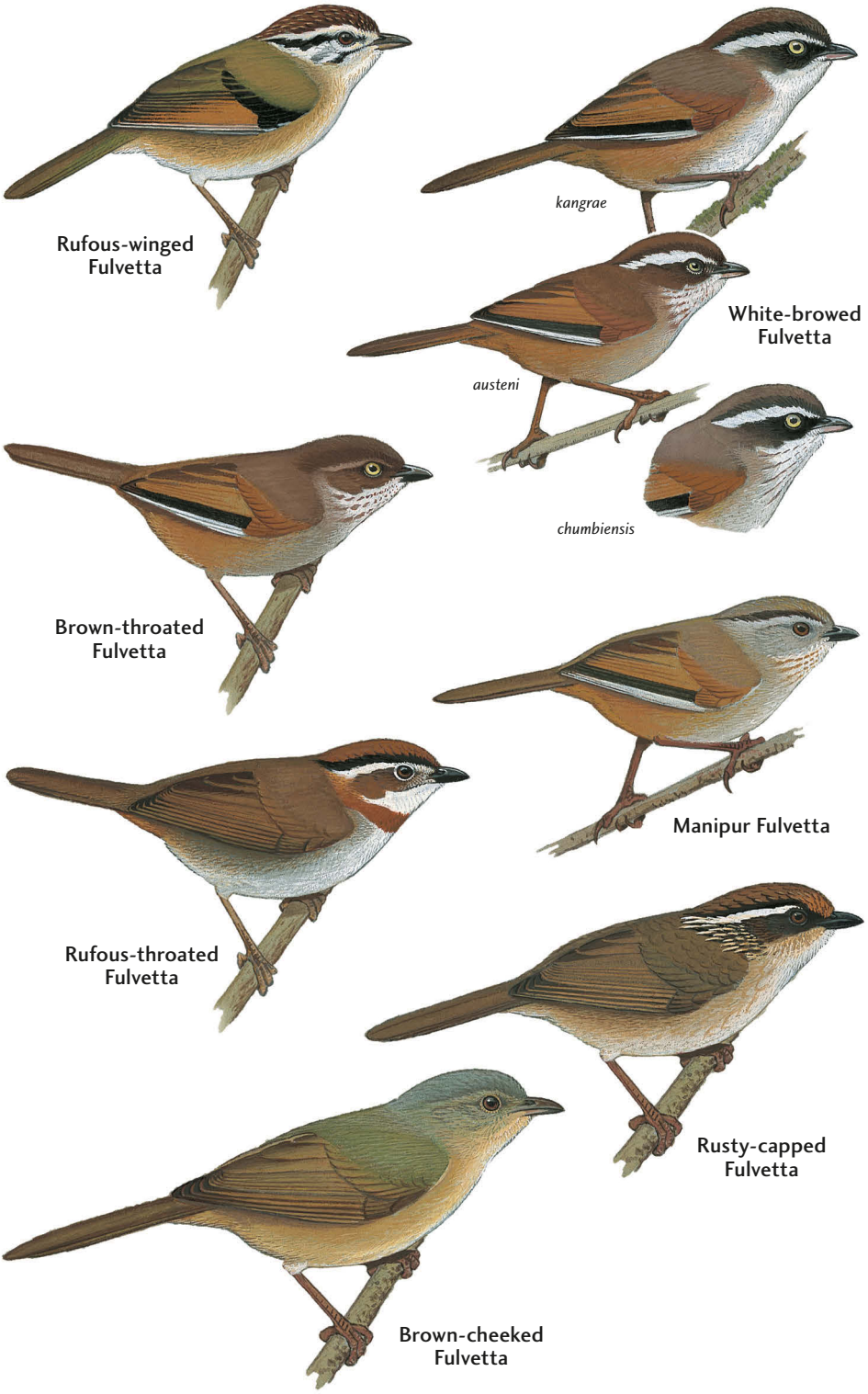
Rusty-capped Fulvetta *Schoeniparus dubius* 13 cm

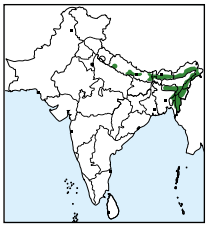
NE Indian hills. **ID** Large, long-tailed fulvetta. Has bright rufous forehead, rufous crown and nape with dark brown scaling, broad white supercilium contrasting with black lateral crown-stripes, and dark brown ear-coverts and neck sides, the latter prominently buff-streaked. Wings uniform olive-brown (lacking rufous wing-panel of Rufous-winged). **Voice** Song similar to that of Rufous-throated but less shrill, less variation and with fewer notes per phrase. **HH** Undergrowth in forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Alcippe*.



Brown-cheeked Fulvetta *Alcippe poioicephala* 15 cm

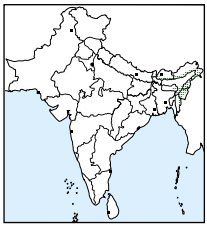
Resident. Hills of India and Bangladesh. **ID** Large, rather nondescript fulvetta, lacking any patterning to head. Has greyish crown and nape, grey-brown to olive-brown mantle, brown to rufous-brown wings and tail, and greyish-white to buff-coloured underparts, with paler throat and centre of breast. **Voice** Attractive, bustling, whistled song *tiew-teuw-tu-tee-tiu-tiu-wheet* repeated. **HH** Undergrowth in moist forest, bamboo stands and secondary growth.


Rufous-winged Fulvetta
kangrae
White-browed Fulvetta
austeni
chumbiensis
Brown-throated Fulvetta
Manipur Fulvetta
Rufous-throated Fulvetta
Rusty-capped Fulvetta
Brown-cheeked Fulvetta



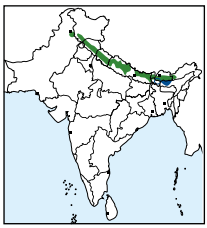
Nepal Fulvetta *Alcippe nipalensis* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** A distinctive fulvetta with grey head and blackish lateral crown-stripes, prominent white eye-ring, olive-brown upperparts, and whitish underparts with buff flanks. **Voice** Short buzzes and metallic *chit* note; also a short fast trill. **HH** Dense undergrowth in moist forest, bamboo stands and secondary growth.



Rufous-backed Sibia *Leioptila annectans* 18 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Small, short-tailed sibia. Has black cap, black-and-white-streaked upper mantle merging into rufous back and rump, and white underparts with deep buff flanks and vent. Black wings have white fringes to tertials and grey edges to primaries and secondaries. Black tail is tipped with white (from below, showing as large white spots at tip of undertail). Also has yellow base to lower mandible and yellow legs and feet. **Voice** Sings with repeated loud, strident jolly phrases. **HH** Dense, moist broadleaved evergreen forest in subtropical and temperate zones. **TN** Formerly placed in *Heterophasia*.

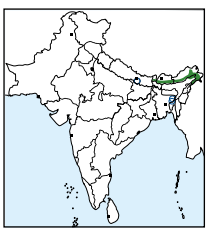


Rufous Sibia *Malacias capistratus* 21 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Has black cap, rufous or cinnamon-buff nape and underparts, grey tip and black subterminal band to rufous tail, and grey panelling on mainly black wings. Nominate (W Himalayas) has paler cinnamon-buff nape and underparts, and grey-brown mantle and back. *M. c. nigriceps* and *M. c. bayleyi* (C and E Himalayas) have deeper rufous nape and underparts; *bayleyi* has a brighter rufous-brown mantle which is almost concolorous with nape. **Voice** Song is a clear, flute-like *tee-dee-dee-dee-dee-o-lu,* the first five notes on the same pitch, the sixth lowest and the last in between; call is a rapid *chi-chi* and alarm is a harsh *chrai-chrai-chrai*. **HH** Mainly broadleaved forest, favours oaks. **TN** Formerly placed in *Heterophasia*.

Grey Sibia *Malacias gracilis* 21 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Lacks rufous. Has black cap, grey upperparts, black wings (with largely grey tertials and greater coverts), and mainly grey tail with broad black subterminal band. Underparts are whitish with buff rear flanks and undertail-coverts. **Voice** Song is a loud, strident, far-carrying series of well-spaced high-pitched, shrill whistles, usually descending towards end or from beginning. Has harsh, grating, slightly metallic calls typical of the genus. **HH** Mainly broadleaved forest, mainly pine forest in Khasi Hills. **TN** Formerly placed in *Heterophasia*.



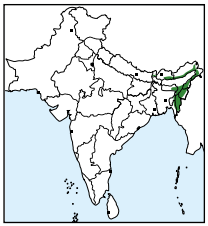
Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides* 30 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From other sibias by long tail with greyish-white tips, grey head and upperparts (with slightly darker lores) and paler grey underparts, and dark grey wings with white patch on secondaries. **Voice** Calls include thin, metallic, high-pitched *tsittsit* and *tsic* notes, interspersed with dry, even-pitched rattling. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen forest in tropical and subtropical zones.

Beautiful Sibia *Malacias pulchellus* 22 cm

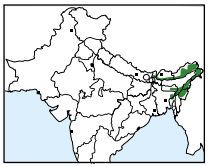
Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Has bluish-slate crown, slate-grey upperparts and slightly paler underparts. Wings and tail are patterned with black, chestnut-brown and grey. *M. p. nigroauritus* (north of the Brahmaputra R) has black ear-coverts; black is restricted to lores in nominate (south of Brahmaputra R). **Voice** Song is a loud, strident *ti-ti-titi-tu-ti,* descending slightly towards end. Generally less descending, higher-pitched and shriller than Grey Sibia song. Calls include continuous low, rattling *chrrrrrrrrr.* **HH** Moist broadleaved forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Heterophasia*.

Nepal Fulvetta
nigriceps
Rufous Sibia
Rufous-backed Sibia
capistratus
Grey Sibia
Long-tailed Sibia
pulchellus
Beautiful Sibia
nigroauritus



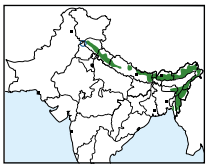
Striated Yuhina *Staphida castaniceps* 13 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Not as crested as other yuhinas, and the only one to show white on tail. Main plumage features are very short white supercilium, rufous ear-coverts with fine white streaking, white streaking on greyish-olive mantle, uniform greyish-white underparts, and white tips to graduated tail. Two predominantly Himalayan subspecies, *S. c. rufigenis* and *S. c. plumbeiceps*, have a grey crown which is finely streaked with greyish-white; *S. c. castaniceps* (hills east and south of the Brahmaputra R) has rufous crown which is finely scaled with pale buff and concolorous with ear-coverts. **Voice** A loud cheeping or twittering *chir-chit... chir-chit*; also a short, nasal descending *chrrr*. **HH** Broadleaved forest with a thick, bushy understorey and secondary growth in tropical and subtropical zones. **TN** Formerly placed in *Yuhina*.



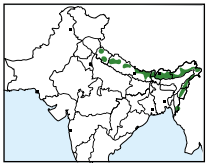
White-naped Yuhina *Yuhina bakeri* 13 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From other yuhinas by combination of stout bill, rufous crest, white nape (especially prominent when crest raised), blackish lores, white streaking on rufous ear-coverts, white shaft streaking on mantle, and fine brown streaking on pinkish-buff breast. **Voice** A ringing *zee-zee or zeuu-zuee*; also high-pitched alarm notes. **HH** Broadleaved, evergreen subtropical forest.



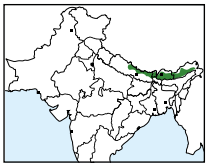
Whiskered Yuhina *Yuhina flavicollis* 13 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Separable from other yuhinas by a combination of grey-brown crest, prominent black moustachial stripe, yellowish to rufous hind collar, and a prominent white eye-ring. Sides of breast and flanks are olive-brown, streaked with white. *Y. f. albicollis* (W Himalayas) has a paler hind collar, which is yellowish-buff in centre. **Voice** A thin, rather squeaky *swii swii-swii*, also a clear, metallic ringing note; loud ringing notes issued in chorus from flocks. **HH** Broadleaved subtropical and temperate forests and woodlands, and secondary growth.



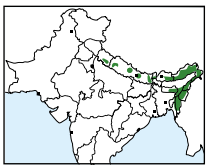
Stripe-throated Yuhina *Yuhina gularis* 14 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Largest yuhina, and best distinguished by combination of olive-brown crest, black streaking on pale vinaceous throat, rufous-orange wing-panel contrasting with black primaries, and brownish-orange belly and vent. **Voice** Call-note is a nasal, descending *queee*. **HH** Temperate broadleaved and mixed forest.



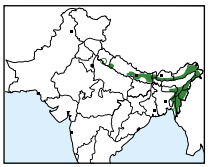
Rufous-vented Yuhina *Yuhina occipitalis* 13 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Has rufous lores, nape patch, belly and vent; grey crest, ear-coverts and hind neck; fine black moustachial stripe, and vinaceous underparts. Has reddish bill and legs. **Voice** A constant chittering; song is a high-pitched strong *zee-zu-drrrrr, tsip-ch-e-e-e-e*; also *z-e-e… zit* alarm. **HH** Temperate and subalpine broadleaved forest, especially oak and rhododendrons.



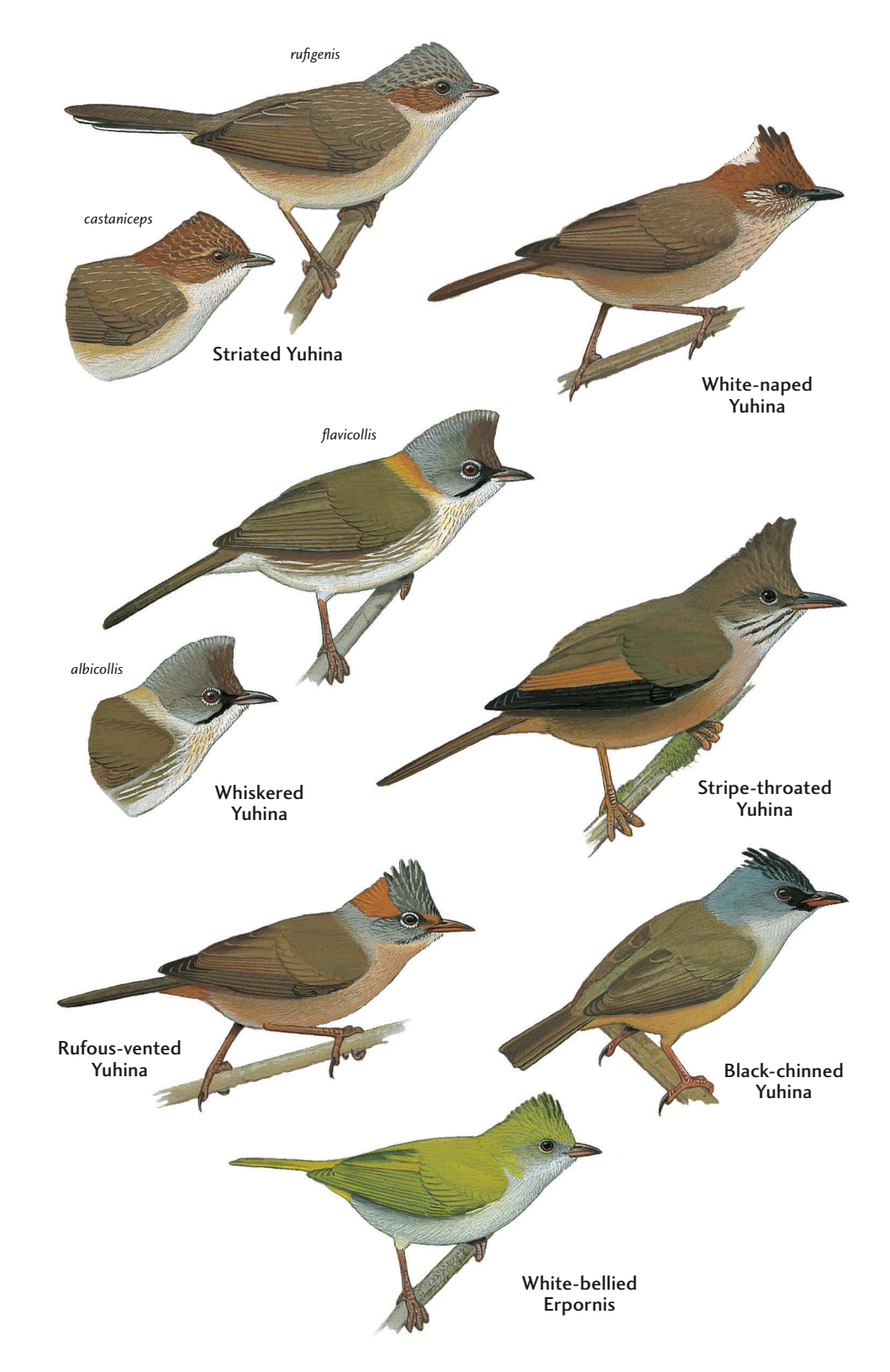
Black-chinned Yuhina *Yuhina nigrimenta* 11 cm

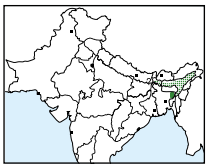
Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Small, short-tailed, mainly olive-brown yuhina with grey-streaked black crest to greyish head, black chin and lores, and white to pale grey throat and upper breast contrasting with buffish of rest of underparts. Has red lower mandible with dark tip, and legs and feet are orange-yellow. **Voice** Flocks give a constant twittering and buzzing. **HH** Moist subtropical broadleaved evergreen forest, secondary growth and overgrown clearings.



White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* 11 cm

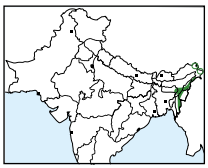
Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Crested, olive-yellow and white, with beady black eye. Undertail coverts are bright yellow. Has pinkish bill and legs. Juvenile is duller, with brownish cast to upperparts. **Voice** Sings with a short, high-pitched, descending trill *si-i-i-i-i*. Calls include a subdued, metallic *chit* and a *cheaan* alarm. **HH** Broadleaved forest and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Yuhina* but not related to babblers.


rufigenis
castaniceps
Striated Yuhina
White-naped Yuhina
flavicollis
albicollis
Whiskered Yuhina
Stripe-throated Yuhina
Rufous-vented Yuhina
Black-chinned Yuhina
White-bellied Erpornis



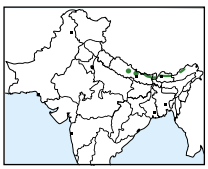
Black-breasted Parrotbill *Paradoxornis flavirostris* 19 cm

Resident. NE Indian plains and (formerly) Bangladesh. **ID** Medium-sized parrotbill with rufous-brown head and olive-brown upperparts, black patch on ear-coverts, and huge yellow bill. From Spot-breasted Parrotbill (although note different distribution) by black breast patch and solid black chin (with black barring on white throat and malar area), rufous-buff (rather than pale buff) underparts, darker rufous-brown crown and nape, even stouter bill, and different call. **Voice** A striking whistled *phew, phew, phew, phuit* ascending in pitch and volume. **HH** Reedbeds and tall grass. Globally threatened.



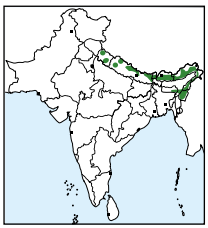
Spot-breasted Parrotbill *Paradoxornis guttaticollis* 19 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Medium-sized parrotbill with rufous head and upperparts, black patch on ear-coverts, and large yellow bill. From Black-breasted (although note distribution) by black arrowhead-shaped spotting on buffish-white throat and breast (lacking bold black patch on breast), pale buff (rather than rufous-buff) underparts, brighter rufous crown and nape, less stout bill, and different call. **Voice** Typical territorial calls consist of 3–7 loud, even-pitched staccato notes, *whit-whit-whit-whit-whit-whit* or a more plaintive series. **HH** Grass and scrub, also bushes and bamboo.



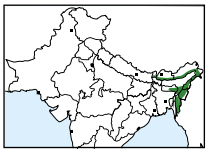
Fulvous Parrotbill *Suthora fulvifrons* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Small, comparatively long-tailed parrotbill, lacking black, white and grey patterning of Black-throated Parrotbill. Main differences from Black-throated are fulvous (rather than grey or rufous) crown and supercilium, olive-brown (rather than black) lateral crown-stripes, lack of striking white malar patch, and fulvous face and underparts. **Voice** Probable song: thin, high-pitched *si-si ssuuu-juuu* with harsher final note; also *si-si-sissu-suu-u* and *si-si-sissu-suue* with thin last notes. Short contact calls. **HH** Bamboo stands. **TN** Formerly placed in *Paradoxornis*.



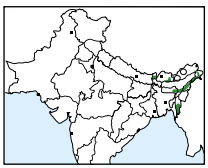
Black-throated Parrotbill *Suthora nipalensis* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Small parrotbill. All races show broad blackish lateral crown-stripes and black throat, white eye patch and malar patch, and black primary-covert patch. *S. n. nipalensis* and *S. n. garhwalensis* (C Himalayas) have grey crown and ear-coverts; *S. n. humii* to the east has brownish-orange crown and ear-coverts and brighter orange-brown mantle; *S. n. crocotius* (E Bhutan) similar to *humii*, but has cinnamon-orange crown and duller ear-coverts and mantle; *S. n. poliotis* (E Himalayas south to Manipur) has rufous crown, slate-grey ear-coverts, extensive black throat and grey underparts; *S. n. patriciae* (Mizoram hills) similar to *poliotis*, but has deep fulvous (rather than grey) breast. **Voice** Flocks give general hubbub of dry, chattering trills. **HH** Bamboo, dense forest undergrowth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Paradoxornis*.



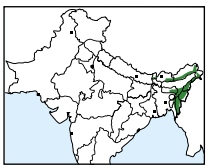
Grey-headed Parrotbill *Psittiparus gularis* 21 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Medium-sized parrotbill with stout orange bill. From other parrotbills by combination of grey head, with black lateral crown-stripe broadening towards nape, black throat, white surround to eye and white malar stripe, rufous-brown mantle and wings, and white or buffish-white underparts. **Voice** Usual calls are short, quite harsh, rather slurred *jieu* or *jiow* notes. **HH** Forest, bushes and bamboo stands. **TN** Formerly placed in *Paradoxornis*.



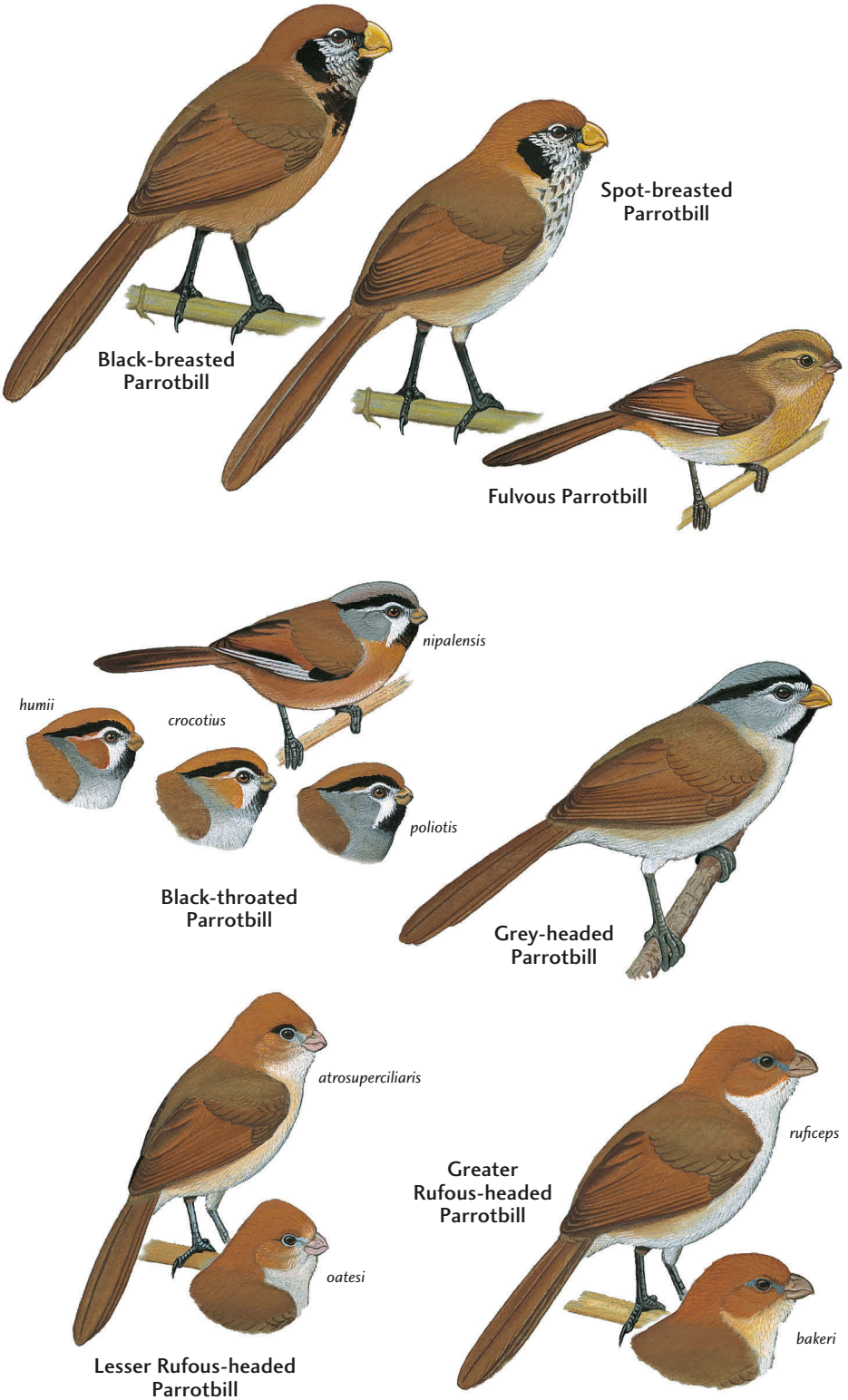
Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Chleuasicus atrosuperciliaris* 15 cm

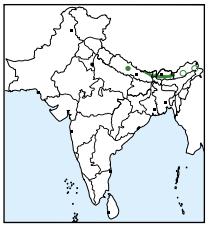
Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From Greater Rufous-headed by smaller size, smaller and stouter bill, whitish lores and paler buffish-orange ear-coverts. *C. a. oatesi* (E Himalayas) lacks black eyebrow and has whitish underparts. Black eyebrow is prominent (a further difference from Greater Rufous-headed) and underparts buff in nominate (S and E of Brahmaputra R.) **Voice** Flocks call with subdued, rapid, jumbled, chattering, interspersed with harsher, more metallic notes. **HH** Bamboo stands, tall grass and scrub. **TN** Formerly placed in *Paradoxornis*.



Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill *Psittiparus ruficeps* 18 cm

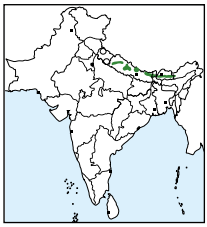
Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From Lesser Rufous-headed by larger size, longer and less stubby bill, and deep rufous-orange ear-coverts (which are well demarcated from throat), without whitish lores. Lack of black eye-brow is further difference from nominate Lesser (S and E of Brahmaputra R). From juvenile White-hooded Babbler by much stouter bill. Nominate (E Himalayas) has whiter underparts, with buff restricted to the flanks, compared with *P. r. bakeri* (S and E of Brahmaputra R) which has mainly buff underparts. **Voice** A strong, whistled *swee-swee-swee-swo* and a harsh, buzzing, metallic *dzaw-dzaw*. **HH** Bamboo stands, moist broadleaved forest undergrowth.


Black-breasted Parrotbill
Spot-breasted Parrotbill
Fulvous Parrotbill
humii
crocotius
nipalensis
poliotis
Black-throated Parrotbill
Grey-headed Parrotbill
atrosuperciliaris
oatesi
Lesser Rufous-headed Parrotbill
Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill
ruficeps
bakeri



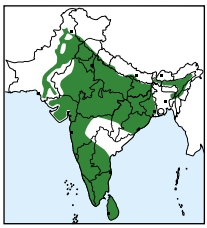
Brown Parrotbill *Cholornis unicolor* 21 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** From Great Parrotbill by smaller size and stocky shape, smaller and much stouter bill, diffuse blackish lateral crown-stripe broadening on nape, diffuse grey supercilium behind eye and grey eye-ring, diffuse grey mottling on dull brown ear-coverts, dusky grey and rather untidy-looking throat and breast merging into olive-brown of flanks and belly, and browner tail. Has rufous-brown panel on wings, as Great. **Voice** Call is a *chirrup* and loud *churrr-churrr* in alarm. **HH** Mainly dense bamboo stands, also rhododendron and other bushes in temperate and subalpine zones. **TN** Formerly placed in *Paradoxornis*.



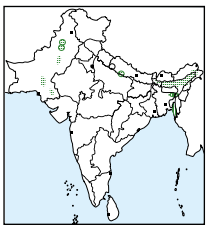
Great Parrotbill *Conostoma aemodium* 28 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Large 'parrotbill', and rather laughingthrush-like in shape and behaviour. From Brown by larger size and paler grey-brown coloration, larger and cone-shaped bill, buffish-white forehead contrasting with brown lores, paler and more uniform grey-brown sides of head, throat and breast, and grey sides to tail. Lacks dark lateral crown-stripes of Brown. **Voice** Halting, loud, song of 2–4 clear whistled notes; also more plaintive nasal wheeze, squeals, cackles and chirrs; alarm is a *churrrrrr*. **HH** Bamboo stands in forest, usually oak-rhododendron or fir-rhododendron.



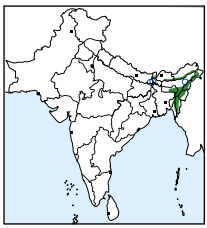
Yellow-eyed Babbler *Chrysomma sinense* 18 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of the NW and NE. **ID** Long-tailed babbler with rounded head and stout, dark bill (recalling a giant prinia in shape). Most distinctive features are yellow iris and thick orange orbital ring, white lores and supercilium, striking white throat and breast merging into buffish underparts, and yellow legs and feet. Juvenile has browner bill, dark eye and duller eye-ring. *C. s. hypoleucum* (NW subcontinent) paler, more olive-brown on upperparts with more striking rufous-brown wings, than nominate (E and S subcontinent) which has richer, more chestnut-brown upperparts and richer buff lower belly and flanks. **Voice** Song a variable, rapid twittering trill *tri-rit-ri-ri-ri-ri* ending in a two-noted *toway-twoh*. **HH** Tall grass and bushes.



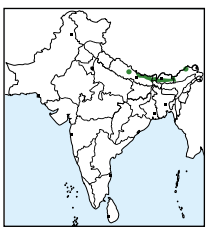
Jerdon's Babbler *Chrysomma altirostre* 17 cm

Resident. Plains of Pakistan, Nepal terai and NE India. **ID** From Yellow-eyed by paler yellowish-brown bill, greyish lores and supercilium, brown iris and dull yellowish-green orbital ring, and fleshy-brown legs and feet. *C. a. scindicum* (Indus plains) has olive-brown upperparts and greyish-white throat and breast (not brilliant white as on Yellow-eyed, and lacks bright rufous-brown on the wing). *C. a. griseigulare* (NE subcontinent) has darker grey throat and breast and richer chestnut-brown upperparts, and is richer buff on belly, flanks and vent. **Voice** Song of *scindicum* comprises series of undulating two-toned whistles *twee-too whit-tooh*, lacking rapid trills of Yellow-eyed. **HH** Reedbeds and tracts of elephant grass. Globally threatened.



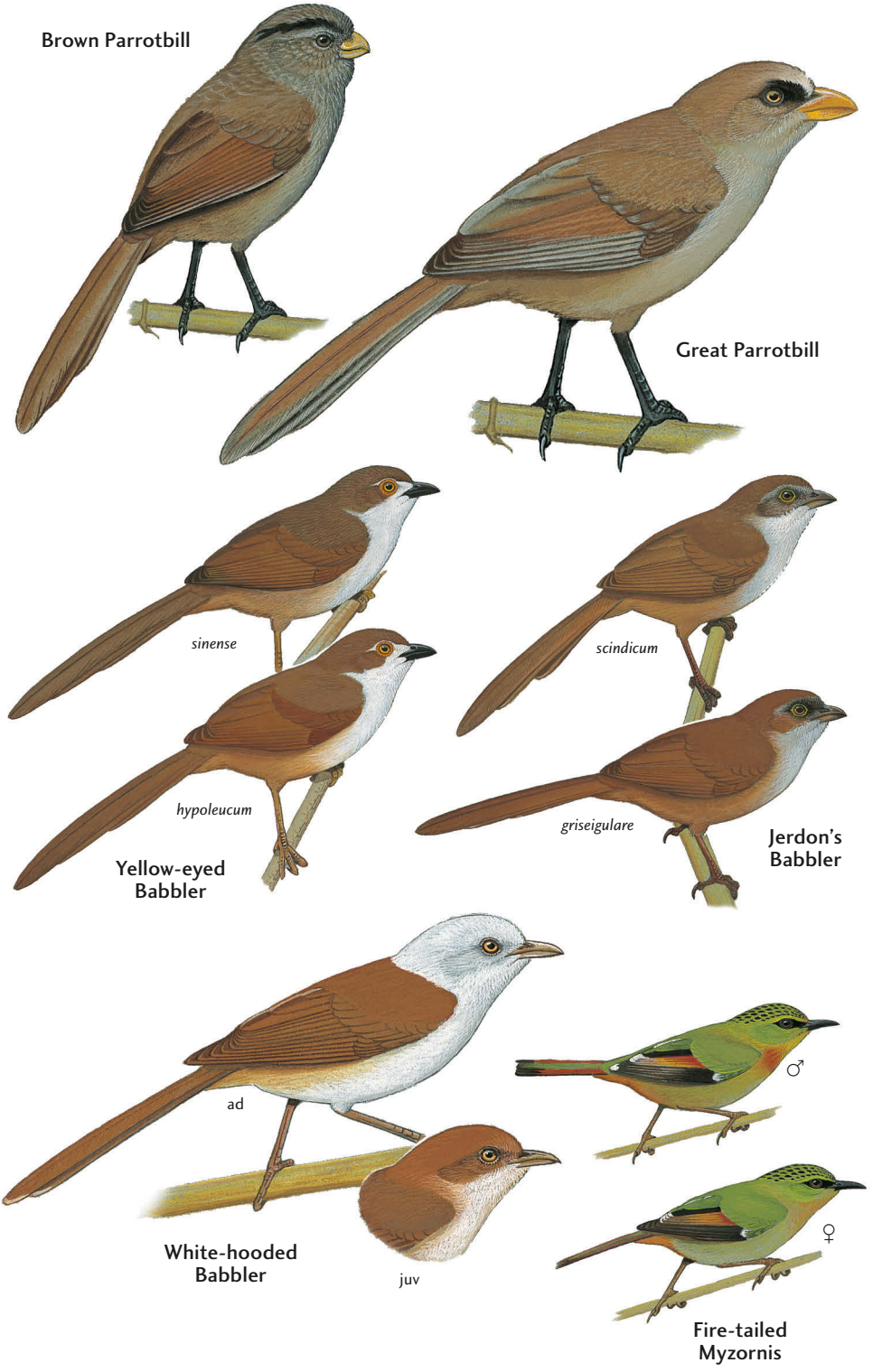
White-hooded Babbler *Gampsorhynchus rufulus* 23 cm

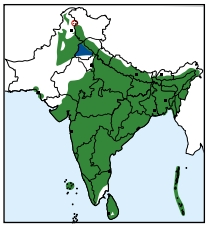
Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Bull-headed, long-tailed babbler. Adult has white head and underparts (with buff wash on flanks), contrasting with rufous-brown upperparts and tail; tail is tipped with pale buff. Iris and bill are strikingly pale. Has variable white on wing-coverts, but this is usually obscured by feathers of mantle. Juvenile has rufous-orange crown and ear-coverts, rufous-brown upperparts, and whitish throat, becoming buff on underparts; may be confusable with Greater Rufous-headed Parrotbill but has much thinner bill, and ear-coverts do not contrast so strongly with white throat. **Voice** Usual call a harsh, stuttering rattle or cackle; contact calls soft and quiet *wit, wet* and *wyee* notes. **HH** Bamboo and undergrowth in forest.



Fire-tailed Myzornis *Myzornis pyrrhoura* 12 cm

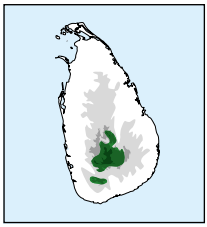
Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Mainly brilliant emerald-green, with fine black bill, black eye-stripe and scaling on crown, and red-and-orange panels on black wings. Sexes are similar but female has orange-buff throat (throat/upper breast red in male), greyish belly and flanks (more orange in male), less extensive white tips to secondaries and primaries, and duller red sides to tail. **Voice** Gives a *trrrr-trrrr-trrr* preceded by a high-pitched squeak, and a repeated *tzip* in alarm; very high-pitched *tsi-tsi* contact notes. **HH** Rhododendron and juniper shrubberies; mossy oak-rhododendron forest and bamboo stands.


Brown Parrotbill
Great Parrotbill
sinense
hypoleucum
Yellow-eyed Babbler
scindicum
griseigulare
Jerdon's Babbler
ad
juv
White-hooded Babbler
♂
♀
Fire-tailed Myzornis



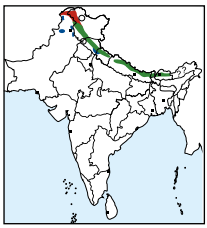
Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus* 10 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of the northwest. **ID** Distinctive, with prominent white eye-ring, black bill and lores, green to yellowish-green upperparts, bright yellow throat and vent, and whitish rest of underparts with variable greyish wash. **Voice** Call is a plaintive *cheer* or *prree-u*; song is a tinkling jingle. **HH** Open broadleaved forest, groves, gardens orchards and mangroves; also cardamom plantations in S India.



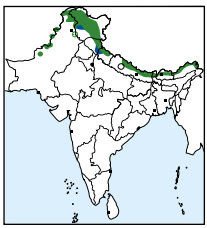
Sri Lanka White-eye *Zosterops ceylonensis* 11 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** From Oriental by slightly larger size and longer bill, duller green upperparts (lacking bright yellow forehead), poorly defined greyish lores with grey extending diffusely onto ear-coverts and sides of throat, and duller olive-yellow throat and breast. **Voice** Call constantly uttered is a reedy *chirp* very like Oriental's, but stronger and deeper in tone; has a jingling song. **HH** Forest; also gardens and plantations close to natural forest.



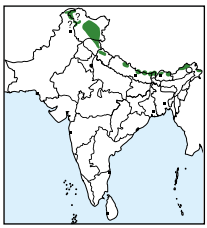
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus* 9 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Small and plump, with greenish upperparts, recalling *Phylloscopus* warbler. Best distinguished by very plain face, which lacks supercilium and eye-stripe, by pale ring around large dark eye, and by brilliant yellow to orange crown bordered by black. Juvenile lacks striking crown pattern of adult. **Voice** Call is a trisyllabic see-see-see; song is a similarly high-pitched *see-seesisyu-seesisyu-seesisyu-sweet*. **HH** Mainly coniferous forest.



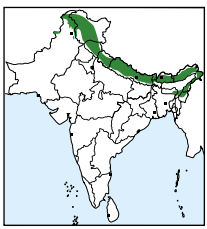
Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes* 9 cm

Resident. Baluchistan and Himalayas. **ID** Small and squat, with stubby tail, and rather long, pointed bill. Has buffish supercilium, barred wings and tail, and variably barred underparts. *T. t. magrathi* (extreme NW) has grey-brown upperparts with fine, dense (and indistinct) dark barring, and greyish underparts with paler throat. *T. t. neglectus* (W Himalayas) has darker brown upperparts with heavy blackish barring, and smoky-brown underparts including throat. *T. t. nipalensis* (C and E Himalayas) is the darkest subspecies, and is sooty-brown all over. **Voice** Song is a powerful, rapidly delivered warbling and trilling; calls include a hard *check* and a rattling *churr*. **HH** Breeds high-altitude slopes; winters around villages and in forest undergrowth. **AN** Winter Wren.



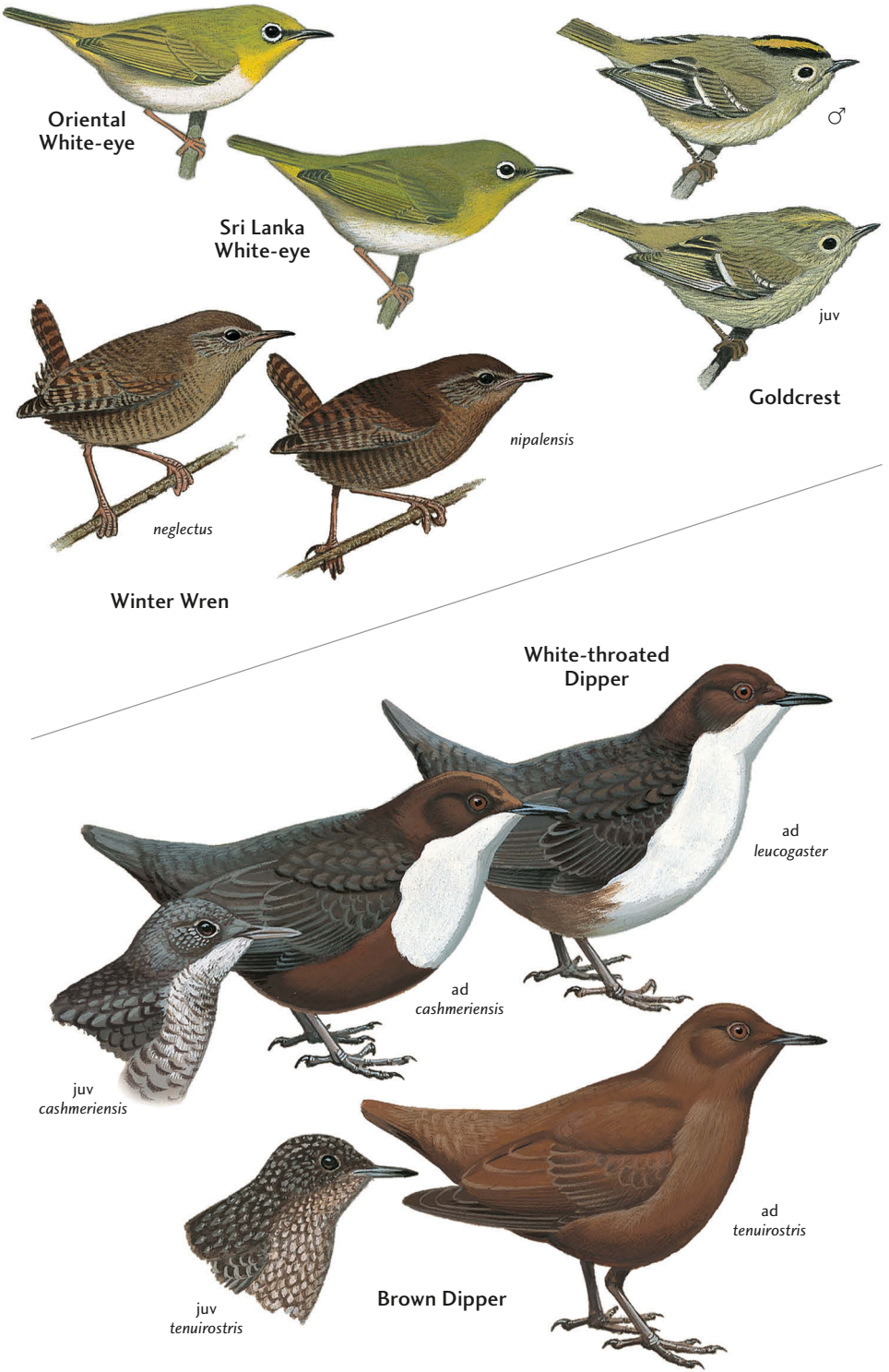
White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus* 20 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** From Brown by white throat and breast contrasting with brown belly; also has brown head and nape merging into blackish-slate of mantle, wings and tail. A rare colour morph, with brown throat and breast, has been recorded in Ladakh. Juvenile from juvenile Brown Dipper by greyer coloration to upperparts, without prominent spotting, and by whiter underparts which are finely scaled. *C. c. leucogaster*, which has an all-white belly, has been recorded in N Pakistan. **Voice** Call is an abrupt, rasping *jeet;* song is a quiet mixture of grating and twittering notes. **HH** Mountain streams.



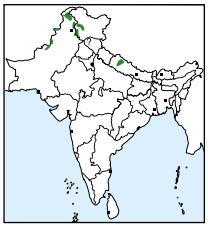
Brown Dipper *Cinclus pallasii* 20 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Adult is entirely brown, lacking white throat and breast of White-throated. Juvenile from juvenile White-throated by browner coloration with conspicuous spotting on upperparts, extensive dark scaling on underparts, and more prominent pale fringes to wing feathers. Adult *C. p. dorje* (E Himalayas) is slightly darker than *C. p. tenuirostris* (NW); juvenile has pale rufous spotting on darker blackish-brown upperparts and underparts, and less prominent pale fringes to wings, compared with juvenile *tenuirostris*. **Voice** Call is an abrupt *dzit-dzit*, less harsh than White-throated's; song stronger and richer. **HH** Mountain streams and small lakes.


Oriental White-eye
Sri Lanka White-eye
♂
juv
Goldcrest
nipalensis
neglectus
Winter Wren
White-throated Dipper
ad leucogaster
ad cashmeriensis
juv cashmeriensis
ad tenuirostris
juv tenuirostris
Brown Dipper

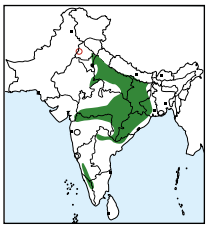
Chestnut-vented Nuthatch *Sitta nagaensis* 12 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Has uniform whitish underparts contrasting with chestnut rear flanks and undertail-coverts (latter splashed with white). Female is similar to male, but with buffish wash to underparts, and flanks and undertail-coverts are a paler rufous. In NE Arunachal, *S. n. montium* may occur and is closer in coloration to female Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch although still paler on underparts and upperparts are a slightly darker and duller blue. **Voice** Bubbling, trilling song. **HH** Open forest. A typical nuthatch: can move with ease upwards, downwards, sideways and upside-down over trunks and branches. Feeds in the middle and lower forest storeys; frequently also on the ground.



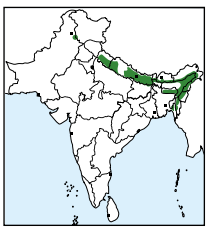
Kashmir Nuthatch *Sitta cashmirensis* 12 cm

Resident. W Himalayas and Indian hills. **ID** Compared with Chestnut-bellied, has uniform undertail-coverts and lacks clearly defined white cheeks. Larger and longer-billed than White-tailed Nuthatch, with more pronounced white cheeks, no white at base of tail, and distinctive rasping, jay-like calls. Female is similar to male, but underparts are paler, with flanks and undertail-coverts more deep cinnamon, and whitish cheek patch is less clearly defined. Female therefore very similar to White-tailed, but ear-coverts are whiter and underparts more pinkish-cinnamon. **Voice** Song is series of rapidly repeated high-pitched whistles. Also loud rasping *Jhreee*. **HH** Forest and well-wooded country. Often feeds in the understorey and sometimes on the ground.



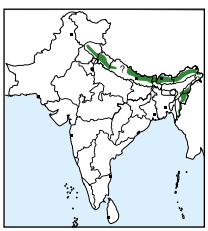
Indian Nuthatch *Sitta castanea* 12 cm

Resident. Indian hills. **ID** Compared with Chestnut-bellied is smaller, with shorter, slender bill. Scalloping on undertail-coverts is grey (same colour as mantle), and crown/nape are distinctly paler than mantle, while underparts of male are a darker reddish-chestnut. **Voice** Songs include a rapid, trill descending in pitch. **HH** Lowland forest and groves. **TN** Considered here to be conspecific with the next species as Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *S. castanea*.



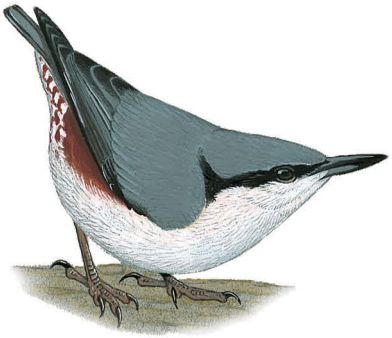
Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch *Sitta* (*castanea*) *cinnamoventris* 12.5 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, hills of NE India and SE Bangladesh. **ID** From Kashmir and White-tailed Nuthatches by whitish scalloping on undertail-coverts. Male always shows striking white cheek patch contrasting with rather uniform orange-brown underparts. Female is similar, but underparts are paler, and is more similar to Kashmir Nuthatch, but underparts are richer, darker and more uniform cinnamon-brown, and has more clearly defined white chin and cheeks. Lacks white at base of central tail feathers of White-tailed Nuthatch, also underparts are darker and more uniform, and cheek patch is more prominent. **Voice** Songs include a musical whinnying trill. **HH** Forest.

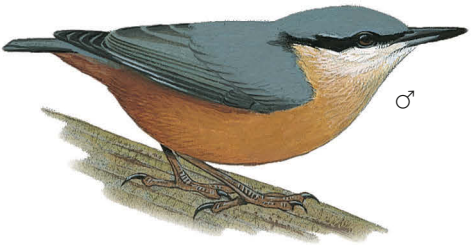


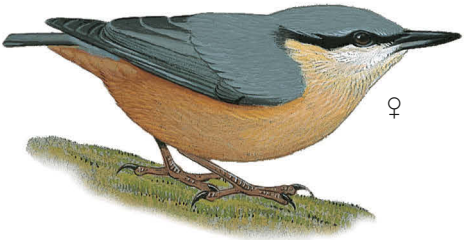
White-tailed Nuthatch *Sitta himalayensis* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From Kashmir by white at base of central tail feathers (although this feature can be very difficult to see in the field). Also smaller, with relatively shorter bill. Sexes are similar. White-tailed has less distinct cheek patch compared with Kashmir (cheeks are off-white or buff, and ear-coverts are more cinnamon-orange). From female Chestnut-bellied by uniform undertail-coverts, and underparts are paler and less uniform. **Voice** Song is series of clear whistles. **HH** Broadleaved and mixed broadleaved–coniferous forest. A typical nuthatch. Frequents the upper half of trees, occasionally low bushes.

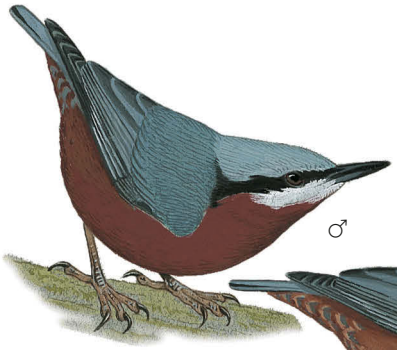


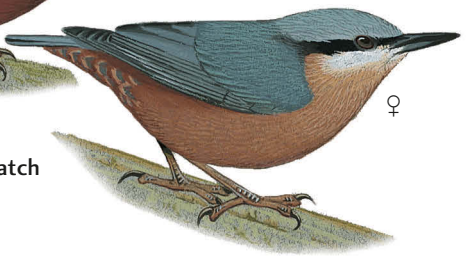
Chestnut-vented Nuthatch





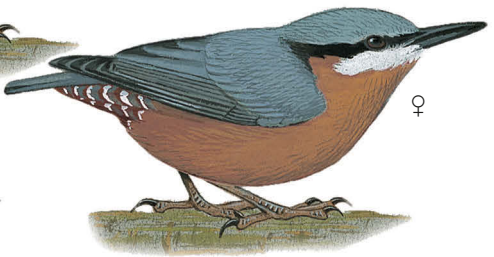
Kashmir Nuthatch

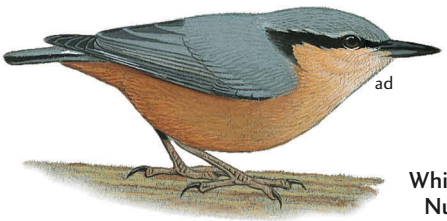




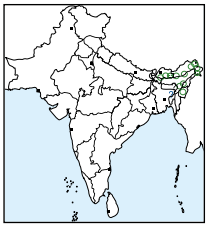
Indian Nuthatch

Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch





White-tailed Nuthatch

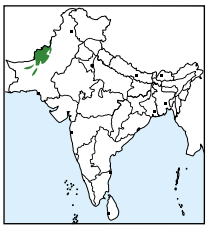


Beautiful Nuthatch *Sitta formosa* 15 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Large nuthatch with black upperparts, streaked with blue, and rufous-orange underparts. Has black crown and mantle with white and blue streaking, blue 'scapular lines', and broad bluish-white fringes to coverts and tertials. From underside, outer tail feathers show broad white tips and in flight, white patch at base of primaries contrasts with blackish underwing-coverts. **Voice** Song is a thin shrill trill. Gives high-pitched, thin, metallic *chip* calls. **HH** Dense forest. Habits are similar to those of other nuthatches, but actions are on larger branches and trunks and are rather slow and deliberate, reminiscent of Himalayan Cutia. Globally threatened.

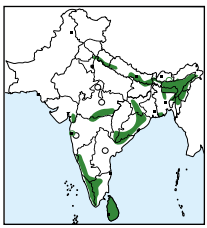
White-cheeked Nuthatch *Sitta leucopsis* 12 cm

Resident. W Himalayas. **ID** Very distinctive nuthatch, with black crown and nape, white face and throat with beady eye, and whitish underparts with buffish wash becoming rufous on rear flanks and undertail-coverts. Juvenile has faint barring on underparts. **Voice** Call likened to that of a young goat bleating. **HH** Coniferous and mixed forest. A typical nuthatch. Feeds in the upper canopy, where most easily located by its distinctive call. In the breeding season, males sometimes perch conspicuously on the tops of tall trees, calling and flicking wings.



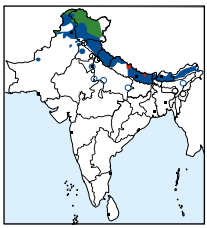
Eastern Rock Nuthatch *Sitta tephronota* 15 cm

Resident. Baluchistan. **ID** Large, with very large, slightly upturned-looking bill. Has long black eye-stripe, extending to side of mantle, pale blue-grey upperparts, and whitish underparts with orange-buff rear flanks and undertail-coverts. **Voice** Song is loud, far-carrying trill. **HH** Often keeps to the same locality throughout the year. Feeding behaviour is similar to that of other nuthatches, but forages chiefly on rock faces, cliffs and boulders, seeking insects in crevices.



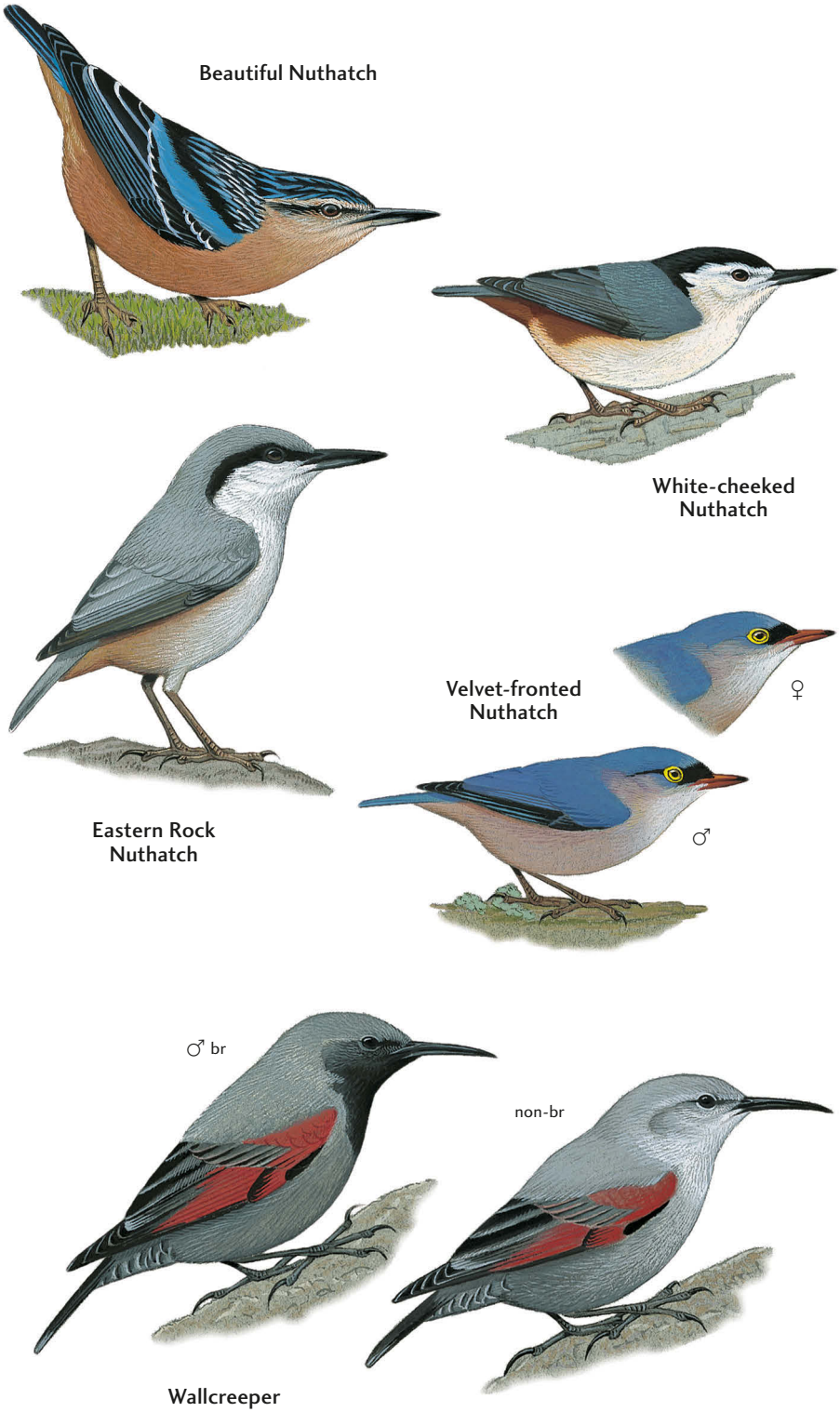
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas, Indian hills, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Striking with violet-blue upperparts, black forehead, black-tipped red bill, startling yellow iris and eye-ring, and lilac suffusion to ear-coverts and underparts. Male has black eye-stripe extending behind eye (lacking in female) with stronger lilac suffusion on underparts (more cinnamon, less lilac in female). Juvenile has blackish bill and duller and greyer upperparts; underparts lack lilac suffusion and are washed with orange-buff. **Voice** Song is fast, hard rattle. **HH** Open forest and well-wooded areas. More active than other nuthatches in the region. Forages from the canopy down to the undergrowth, but not on the ground.



Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* 16 cm

Resident. Himalayas; winters down to foothills and plains. **ID** Long, downcurved, black bill. In flight, wings are rounded and reveal largely crimson wing-coverts and bases to black flight feathers, with two rows of white spots across primaries. Also shows white corners to tail. Adult male breeding has black throat and upper breast. Adult female breeding has whitish chin, and variable blackish patch on lower throat and upper breast. Adult non-breeding has white throat and upper breast, and brown cast to crown. Juvenile has straighter bill, and underparts are paler and more uniform grey. **Voice** Song is repeated sequence of high whistles, increasing in strength and speed. **HH** Rock cliffs and gorges; also ruins and stony river beds in winter.


Beautiful Nuthatch
White-cheeked Nuthatch
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch
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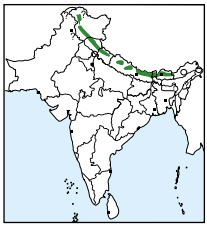
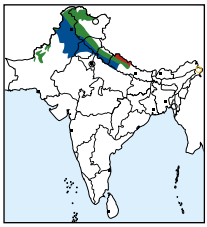
Wallcreeper



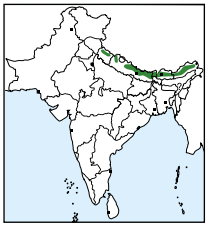
Hodgson's Treecreeper *Certhia hodgsoni* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** From Bar-tailed Treecreeper by combination of (generally) shorter, less downcurved bill, uniform (unbarred) tail, and more prominent buff banding across wing. From Brown-throated Treecreeper by whitish throat and breast, dull brown tail, and more pronounced white supercilium. From Rusty-flanked Treecreeper by lack of prominent white border to rear of ear-coverts, and duller buffish flanks. Nominate (W Himalayas) is comparatively pale and grey above, with pronounced whitish streaking. In C and E Himalayas (*mandellii* and *khamensis*) are darker and browner above: former has indistinct rufescent streaking on upperparts, more rufescent rump, and buffish flanks; latter has paler, more buffish streaking on upperparts, and greyish flanks. **Voice** Song is high-pitched, rising and descending *tzee-tzee-tzizizi*. **HH** Mainly coniferous forest mixed with birch. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*.



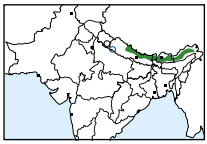
Bar-tailed Treecreeper *Certhia himalayana* 12 cm

Resident. Pakistan mountains, W Himalayas and Arunachal Pradesh. **ID** From other treecreepers by combination of (generally) longer, more downcurved bill and dark cross-barring on tail. Supercilium and pale banding across wings are less distinct than on Hodgson's. White throat and dull whitish or dirty greyish-buff underparts are further differences from Brown-throated and Rusty-flanked. Birds in W Himalayas are paler and greyer on upperparts, becoming darker with more pronounced whitish streaking in E Himalayas. **Voice** Song is high-pitched trill *chi-chi-chi-chiu-chiu-chiu-chu*. **HH** Breeds mainly in coniferous forest; also well-wooded areas in winter.



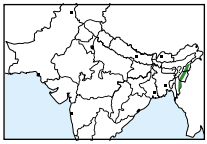
Rusty-flanked Treecreeper *Certhia nipalensis* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** From other treecreepers by combination of shorter, straighter bill, well-defined buffish supercilium, which continues around (and contrasts with) dark ear-coverts, and creamy-buff breast and belly with warm rufous flanks. Supercilium of Hodgson's may extend, rather indistinctly, behind ear-coverts, but ear-covert patch is paler and smaller. Also has unbarred tail (compare with Bar-tailed), and white throat (compare with Brown-throated). **Voice** Distinctive song: two slow notes followed by rapid, penetrating, accelerating trill and ending abruptly. **HH** Winters in oak forest; also breeds in mixed forest.



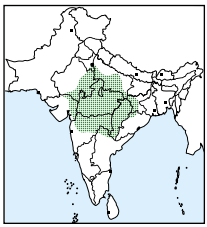
Brown-throated Treecreeper *Certhia discolor* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** From other treecreepers, where ranges overlap, by brownish-buff throat and breast, becoming paler on belly and flanks. Also tail is unbarred, and supercilium is less distinct compared with Rusty-flanked. **Voice** Song is long monotonous rattle. **HH** Broadleaved and mixed forest.



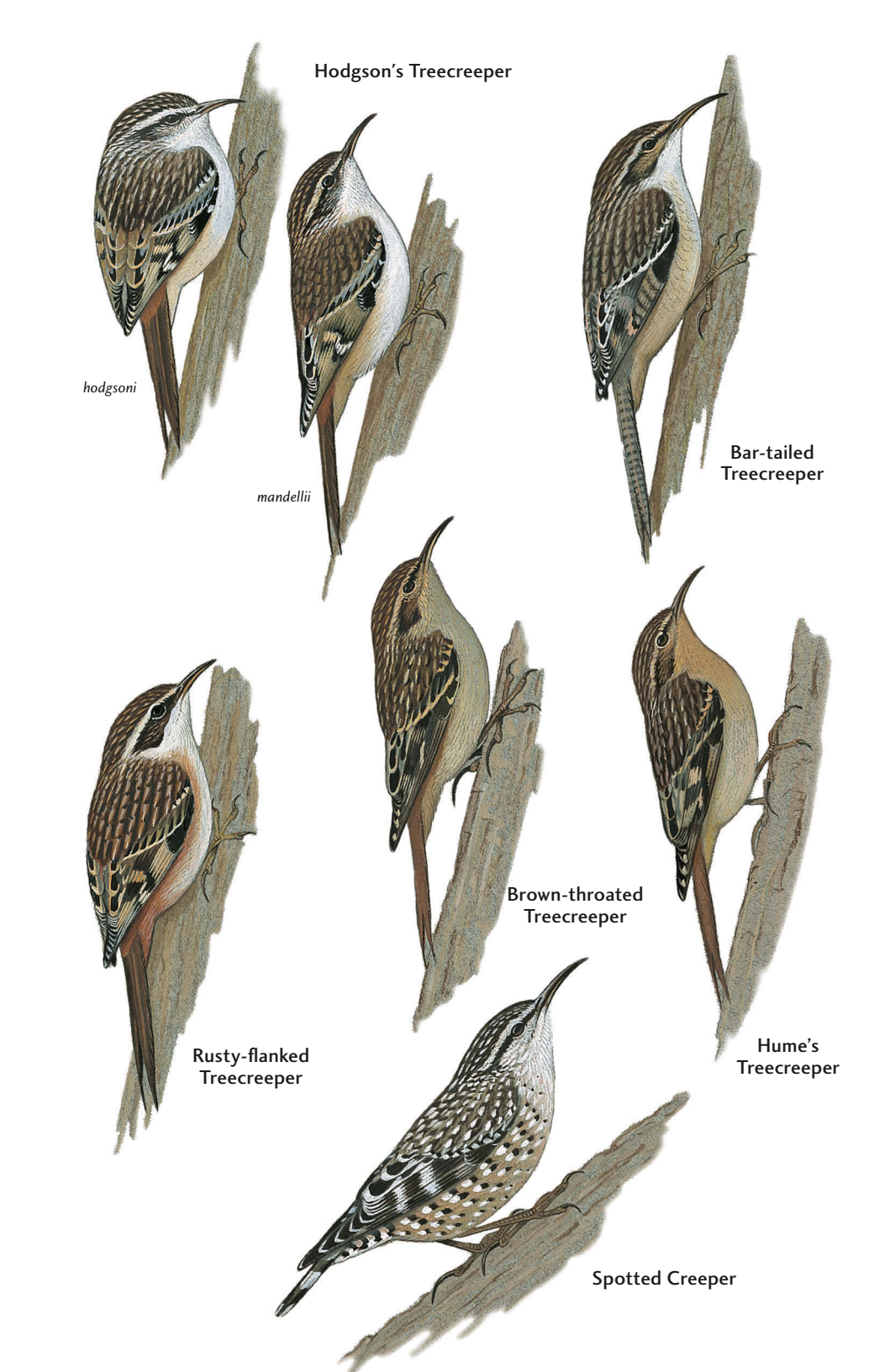
Hume's Treecreeper *Certhia manipurensis* 12 cm

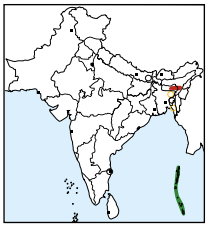
Resident. Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram. **ID** Similar to Brown-throated but has cinnamon-orange throat and breast. **Voice** Song is distinctive: a monotonous hesitant rattle, slower than Brown-throated, *tchi-tchi tchi-tchi tchi-tchi tchichip* etc. Calls with a loud, explosive *chit* or *tchip*, sometimes extending to a rattle. **HH** Broadleaved and mixed broadleaved and pine forest. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Brown-throated Treecreeper *C. discolor*.



Spotted Creeper *Salpornis spilonotus* 13 cm

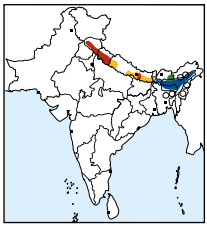
Resident. N and C India. **ID** Larger and stockier than the treecreepers, with shorter and broader, slightly rounded tail (which is not pressed against tree for support). Brown upperparts, including wings, are boldly spotted and barred with white, greyish-white tail is banded with dark brown, and underparts are washed with orange-buff and spotted with brown. Has prominent whitish supercilium and dark eye-stripe. **Voice** Song is series of plaintive descending whistles. **HH** Open deciduous forest and groves.


Hodgson's Treecreeper
hodgsoni
mandellii
Bar-tailed Treecreeper
Brown-throated Treecreeper
Hume's Treecreeper
Rusty-flanked Treecreeper
Spotted Creeper



Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis* 20 cm

Resident on Andamans and Nicobars; visitor to the northeast. **ID** Adult glossy greenish-black, with bright red eye and stout black bill. Juvenile has blackish-brown upperparts with variable greenish gloss, and buffy-white underparts which are heavily streaked with blackish-brown (streaking also with variable greenish gloss); eye is yellowish-white. Adult bluer with dark eye in *A. p. tytleri* (Andamans) and eye whitish in *A. p. albiris* (Nicobars). **Voice** Call consists of sharp ringing whistles *tseu…tseu* etc. **HH** Chiefly arboreal, often feeds with other starlings in flowering and fruiting trees. Coconut groves, forest edges and clearings.

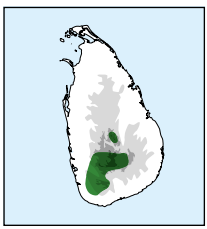


Spot-winged Starling *Saroglossa spiloptera* 19 cm

Resident? Himalayan foothills and NE India. **ID** White wing patch and whitish iris. Male has blackish mask, reddish-chestnut throat, pale rusty-orange breast, dark-scalloped greyish upperparts, and rufous tail. Female has browner upperparts, and whitish underparts with greyish-brown markings on throat and breast. Juvenile is similar to female, but has buff wing-bar, more uniform upperparts, and dark eye. **Voice** Song similar to that of Rosy Starling, a continuous harsh, unmusical jumble of discordant notes; calls include an explosive scolding *kwerrh* and a grating nasal *schaik*. **HH** Prefers to feed on nectar, keeps in noisy flocks, often with mynas and drongos in flowering or fruiting trees. Open broadleaved forest and well-wooded areas.

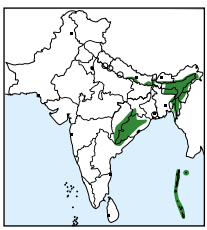
Golden-crested Myna *Ampeliceps coronatus* 22 cm

Resident. Manipur and Assam. **ID** Small, stout-billed myna. Male is largely glossy black, with bushy, golden-yellow forehead and crown, yellow throat, naked orange-yellow orbital patch, and yellow patch at base of primaries. Female is similar, but has less extensive yellow crown and smaller yellow throat patch. Juvenile is dark brown, slightly paler below, with pale yellow throat, and pale yellow patch on wing. **Voice** A higher-pitched, more metallic whistle than Common Hill Myna and a bell-like note. **HH** Arboreal, feeds mainly on fruit, also insects. Open moist forest and tall trees in forest clearings .



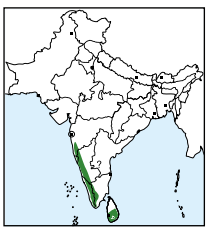
Sri Lanka Hill Myna *Gracula ptilogenys* 25 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Compared with 'Lesser Hill Myna' (which also occurs in Sri Lanka), has stouter orange-red bill with dark blue base, and different shape and positioning of wattles (lacks bare patch on side of head, but has two oval-shaped wattles which extend from nape). Male is glossed with purplish-blue on mantle; more greenish on female. Juvenile has duller bill, much smaller and paler yellow wattles, and less gloss to plumage, with unglossed brownish-black underparts. **Voice** Utters various very loud whistling calls, lower in pitch than Common Hill, also creaking and guttural 'conversational' notes. **HH** Keeps in the canopy, collects in large numbers at fruiting trees. Forest, well-wooded country, plantations and gardens.



Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* 25–29 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE Indian hills, E. Ghats, Bangladesh, Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** Large myna with yellow wattles and with large orange to yellow bill. Plumage is entirely black except for prominent white wing patches. Adult has purple-and-green gloss to plumage and bright orange bill. Juvenile has duller yellowish-orange bill, paler yellow wattles, and less gloss to plumage, with unglossed brownish-black underparts. **Voice** Extremely varied, loud piercing whistles, screeches, croaks and wheezes; noticeably lower, fuller, clearer and mellower than Lesser's. **HH** Moist forest and plantations.



Lesser Hill Myna *Gracula* (*religiosa*) *indica* 24 cm

Resident. W Ghats and Sri Lanka. **ID** Smaller and has finer bill compared with Common, and has the eye wattles distinctly separated from those on nape, with the latter extending up sides of crown. Bill finer than Sri Lanka Hill Myna, lacking blue at base, and has wattles on sides of head. Eye dark (often white in Sri Lanka Hill Myna). **Voice** See Common Hill. **HH** Moist forest and plantations.

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Asian Glossy Starling
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Spot-winged Starling
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Sri Lanka Hill Myna
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Lesser Hill Myna
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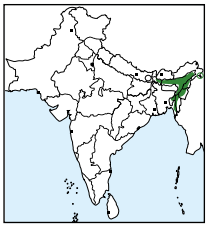
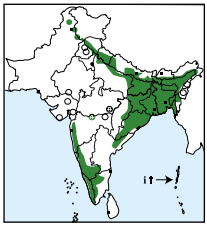


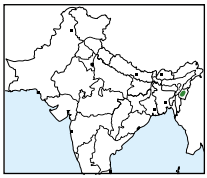
Great Myna *Acridotheres grandis* 25 cm

Resident. NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Similar to Jungle Myna, but has uniform blackish-grey upperparts (showing little contrast between crown and mantle and rump and tail), and uniform dark grey underparts (including belly and flanks), strongly contrasting with white undertail-coverts. Further, has more prominent frontal crest, all-yellow bill, and reddish to orange-brown iris. Juvenile is browner and lacks prominent frontal crest; throat is diffusely mottled with white on some birds. Brown belly with diffuse brownish-white fringes and broad whitish tips to brown undertail-coverts are best distinctions from juvenile Jungle. **Voice** Song very similar to Common Myna's. **HH** Cultivation and grassland. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with White-vented Myna *A. cinereus*.



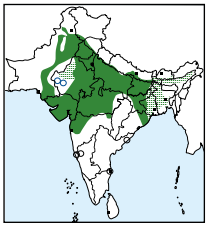
Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus* 23 cm

Resident. Himalayas south to Bangladesh and Andhra Pradesh, and W India. **ID** Adult resembles Bank Myna, but has more prominent frontal crest, white patch at base of primaries and white tip to tail, and lacks bare orbital skin. Eye is pale. Black of crown and ear-coverts merges into grey or grey-brown of upperparts (with less distinct 'cap' than on Bank). Bill is orange, with dark blue base to lower mandible. Juvenile is browner, with darker brown head; has pale shafts on ear-coverts, pale mottling on throat, all-yellow bill, and frontal crest is much reduced. *A. f. mahrattensis* (peninsular India) is browner (less slate-grey) on upperparts compared with nominate (N and NE), and has grey or bluish-white (rather than lemon-yellow) iris. In extreme NE (*A. f. fumidus*) is darker, more sooty, on the upperparts and underparts. **Voice** Song is similar to Common's. **HH** Cultivation near well-wooded areas, and edges of habitation.



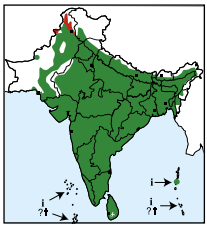
Collared Myna *Acridotheres albocinctus* 23 cm

Resident. Manipur and Assam. **ID** Adult mainly dark grey, with large whitish patches on sides of neck that join as white streaking across hind neck, and has white tips to dark grey undertail-coverts. Neck patch strongly washed buff in fresh plumage. Eye pale blue. Variable frontal crest and shaggy hind crest. White patch on wing smaller than in Great. Juvenile dark brown, with paler throat and belly. Has diffuse brownish-white patch on side of neck (smaller than adult's), which is best feature from juvenile Great. **Voice** Undescribed, but similar to others in genus. **HH** Grassland.



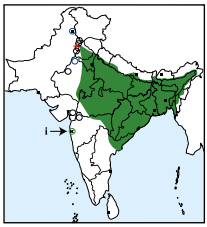
Bank Myna *Acridotheres ginginianus* 23 cm

Resident. Widespread in N and C subcontinent. **ID** From Common by smaller size, bluish-grey coloration, small frontal crest, orange-red orbital patch, orange-yellow bill, red eye, orange-buff patch at base of primaries and on underwing-coverts, and orange-buff tip to tail. Has capped rather than hooded appearance of Common. Juvenile is duller and browner than adult, with buffish-white wing patch and rufous-buff tips to tail. **Voice** Similar to Common's, but not so loud and strident. **HH** Cultivation, damp grassland and habitation.



Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis* 25 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NW and NE subcontinent. **ID** Brownish myna with yellow orbital skin, white wing patch and white tail-tip. Adult has glossy black on head and breast merging into maroon-brown of rest of body. Juvenile is duller, with brownish-black head and paler brown throat and breast. In Sri Lanka (*A. t. melanosternus*) is darker with more extensive yellow orbital skin. **Voice** Song is disjointed, noisy and tuneless, with gurgling and whistling, and much repetition. Has a most distinctive call, a harsh *chake-chake* when alarmed. **HH** Habitation and cultivation.



Asian Pied Starling *Gracupica contra* 23 cm

Resident. Widespread in N, C and E subcontinent. **ID** Black and white, with white cheek patch and scapular line. Has orange orbital skin and base to large, pointed yellowish bill. In flight, white uppertail-coverts contrast with black tail. Juvenile has black of plumage replaced by brown; white cheeks are washed with brown and less distinct and breast-band is not clearly defined. *G. c. superciliaris* (Manipur) has white streaking on forehead and forecrown. **Voice** Utters an assortment of high-pitched musical, liquid notes. **HH** Cultivation, damp grassland, habitation, refuse dumps and sewage works. **TN** Formerly placed in *Sturnus*. **AN** Pied Myna.

Great Myna
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Jungle Myna
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Collared Myna
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Bank Myna
ad
tristis
Common
Myna
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supercilliaris
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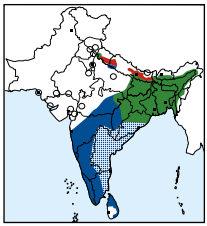
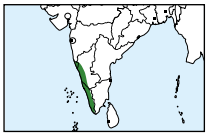
contra
ad
contra
Asian Pied
Starling



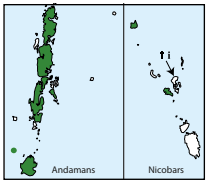
Chestnut-tailed Starling *Sturnia malabarica* 20 cm

Resident in NE subcontinent and summer visitor to W and C Himalayas; winter visitor south to S India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult has grey head and upperparts, with whitish forehead and throat, and whitish lanceolate feathers across crown and nape and sides of neck and breast. Underparts are rufous (variable in extent), and tail is mainly chestnut with grey central feathers. Bill is yellow with bluish base, eye is whitish. Female is more uniformly pale grey, and underparts are paler rufous-buff. Juvenile has pale sandy-grey upperparts and greyish-white underparts. **Voice** Gives a sharp disyllabic metallic note and a mild tremulous whistle. **HH** Open wooded areas. **TN** With exception of Common Starling, all species on this plate formerly placed in *Sturnus*.



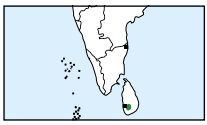
Blyth's Starling *Sturnia* (*malabarica*) *blythii* 20.5 cm

Resident in SW peninsula and W Ghats. **ID** From male Chestnut-tailed by white head and breast which contrasts strongly with grey of mantle and with rufous on belly and flanks. Female has white of head confined to forehead and forecrown; more similar to Chestnut-tailed but purer grey above, and pale below. **Voice** Song includes screeches, squawks, and nasal notes. **HH** Forest edge.



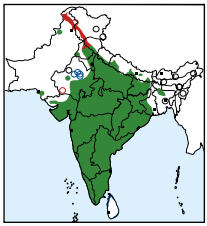
White-headed Starling *Sturnia erythropygia* 21 cm

Resident. Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** Cream-white head and underparts, grey upperparts, glossy greenish-black wings and tail. Greenish-yellow bill with blue base, yellowish legs. Juv. has brownish-grey shaft streaks on crown, and rufous fringes on wing feathers. Nominate (Car Nicobar) has rufous tail-coverts and sides/tip of tail. *S. e. andamanensis* (Andamans) has pale grey rump, white sides/tip of tail, cream to buff undertail-coverts. **Voice** Noisy bulbul-like chatter. **HH** Forest clearings.



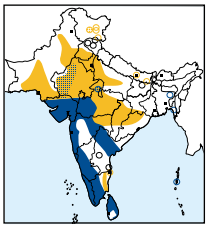
White-faced Starling *Sturnornis albofrontatus* 22 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult has dirty white forehead and face, dark lavender-grey upperparts with slight green gloss, pale lavender-grey underparts with fine white shaft streaking. Bill is pale bluish. Juvenile has dull brown upperparts and dark grey underparts, with whitish supercilium, dark eye-stripe, and white ear-coverts and throat. **Voice** Generally silent. **HH** Tall forest.



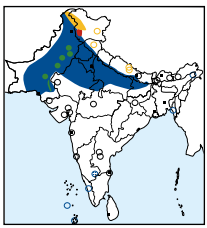
Brahminy Starling *Sturnia pagodarum* 21 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of northwest and northeast. **ID** Myna-like profile. In flight, shows white sides and tip to dark tail, and uniform wings without white wing patch. Adult has black crest, and rufous-orange sides of head and underparts. Has yellowish bill with blue base, and blue or yellow skin behind eye. Juvenile lacks crest, but has grey-brown cap, paler orange-buff underparts, duller bill and eye-patch. **Voice** Song is short, gurgling drawn-out cry followed by a bubbling yodel. **HH** Dry, well-wooded areas and thorn scrub.



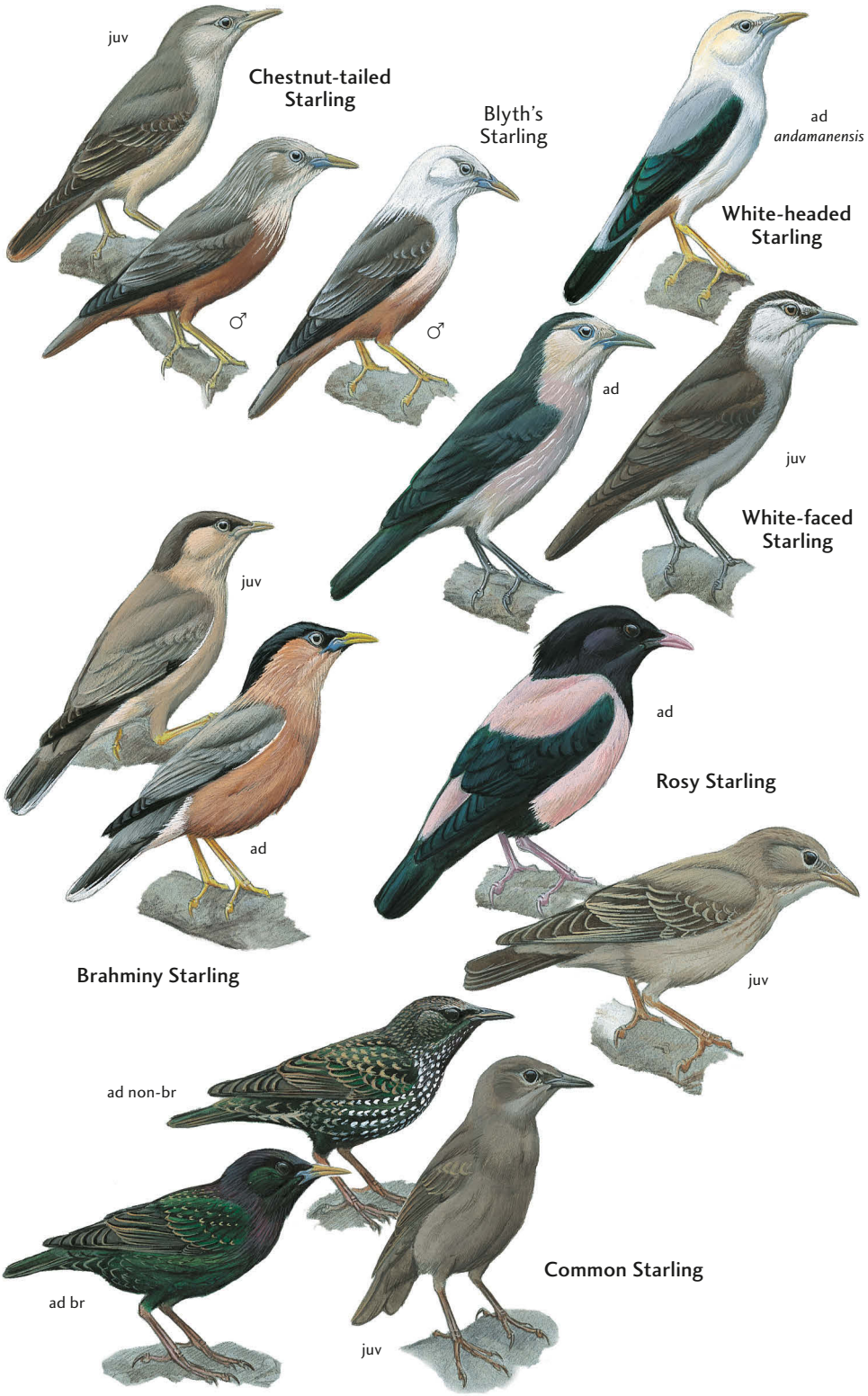
Rosy Starling *Pastor roseus* 21 cm

Passage migrant in Pakistan and N India; winter visitor mainly to W and S India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult has blackish head with shaggy crest, pinkish mantle and underparts, and blue-green gloss to wings. In non-breeding and first-winter plumage much duller; pink of plumage partly obscured by buff fringes; black by greyish fringes. Juvenile mainly sandy-brown, with stout yellowish bill, and broad pale fringes to wing feathers. **Voice** Flight call is a loud clear *ki-ki-ki*. **HH** Cultivation and damp grassland.



Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* 21 cm

Mainly winter visitor to N subcontinent; also partly resident in Pakistan, and summer visitor to Kashmir. **ID** Adult breeding is metallic green and purple. Adult non-breeding has dark bill; upperparts are heavily spangled with buff, wing feathers have broad buff fringes, and underparts are boldly spotted with white. Juvenile is entirely dusky brown, with whiter throat, and buff fringes to wing-coverts and flight feathers. **Voice** Song is combination of chirps, twitters, clicks and whistles; also utters *scree-scree*. **HH** Cultivation and damp grassland.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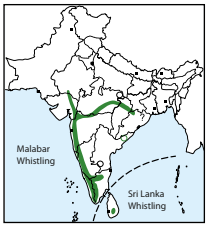
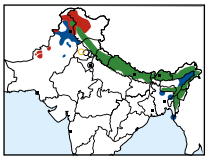


Sri Lanka Whistling Thrush *Myophonus blighi* 20 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Small with short tail. Male is bluish-black and spangled with glistening blue (especially pronounced on forehead, supercilium and inner wing-coverts). Female is brown, with blue shoulder patch; has rufescent cast to lores, throat and breast. Juvenile is similar to female, but has more rusty-brown underparts, with ochre shaft streaks on head, neck and breast. **Voice** Utters a shrill whistle. **HH** Mountain streams in moist, dense forest. Globally threatened.

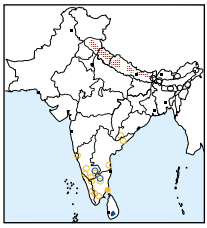
Malabar Whistling Thrush *Myophonus horsfieldii* 25 cm

Resident. Hills of C and W India. **ID** Adult blackish, with blue forehead and shoulders. Bill is black. Wings and tail are edged with glistening blue. Juvenile more sooty-brown, and lacks blue forehead. **Voice** Song has slow, clear whistles up and down the scale. **HH** Rocky hill streams in forest and well-wooded areas.



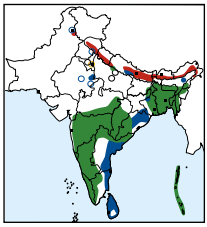
Blue Whistling Thrush *Myophonus caeruleus* 33 cm

Resident. N Baluchistan, Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Adult is dark blue-black, with head and body spangled with glistening silvery-blue. Forehead, shoulders, and fringes to wings and tail are brighter blue. Has stout yellow bill. Juvenile is browner, and lacks blue spangling. Wings and tail are duller blue than adult's. **Voice** Melodic, rambling, whistling song. **HH** Forest and wooded areas, usually close to streams.



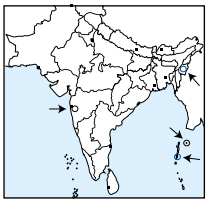
Pied Thrush *Zoothera wardii* 22 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas; winters in S India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult male has white supercilium, white wing-bars and tips to tertials/secondaries, white barring on rump, white- and black barred flanks, and yellowish bill and legs. Female has buff supercilium, olive-brown upperparts, buff wing-bars and tips to tertials, buff spotting on olive-brown breast, and white belly and flanks (with prominent dark scaling). First-winter male has throat and breast mottled with buff, and supercilium and greater-covert wing-bars are buffish-white. Juvenile has buff streaking on mantle and breast. **Voice** Song is 2–4 sweet high-pitched notes, the last often a rattle. **HH** Open broadleaved forest and secondary growth.



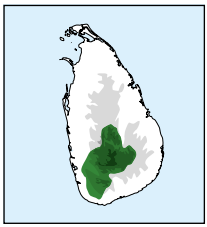
Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina* 21 cm

Summer visitor to Himalayas; resident in NE, C and W India; winter visitor to E India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult has orange head and underparts; male with blue-grey mantle, female with olive-brown wash to mantle. Juvenile has buffish-orange streaking on upperparts and mottled breast. Shows white banding on underwing in flight. Nominate (Himalayas and NE, wintering south to peninsula and Sri Lanka) has head entirely orange (although may show diffuse dark vertical bar at rear of ear-coverts). *Z. c. cyanotus* (peninsula) has vertical black stripes across white ear-coverts, and white throat. *Z. c. andamanensis* and *Z. c. albogularis* (Andaman and Nicobar Is) lack the white shoulder patch of the two continental races, have pale throat but lack black face stripes. **Voice** Rich, sweet, variable song. **HH** Damp, shady places in forests.



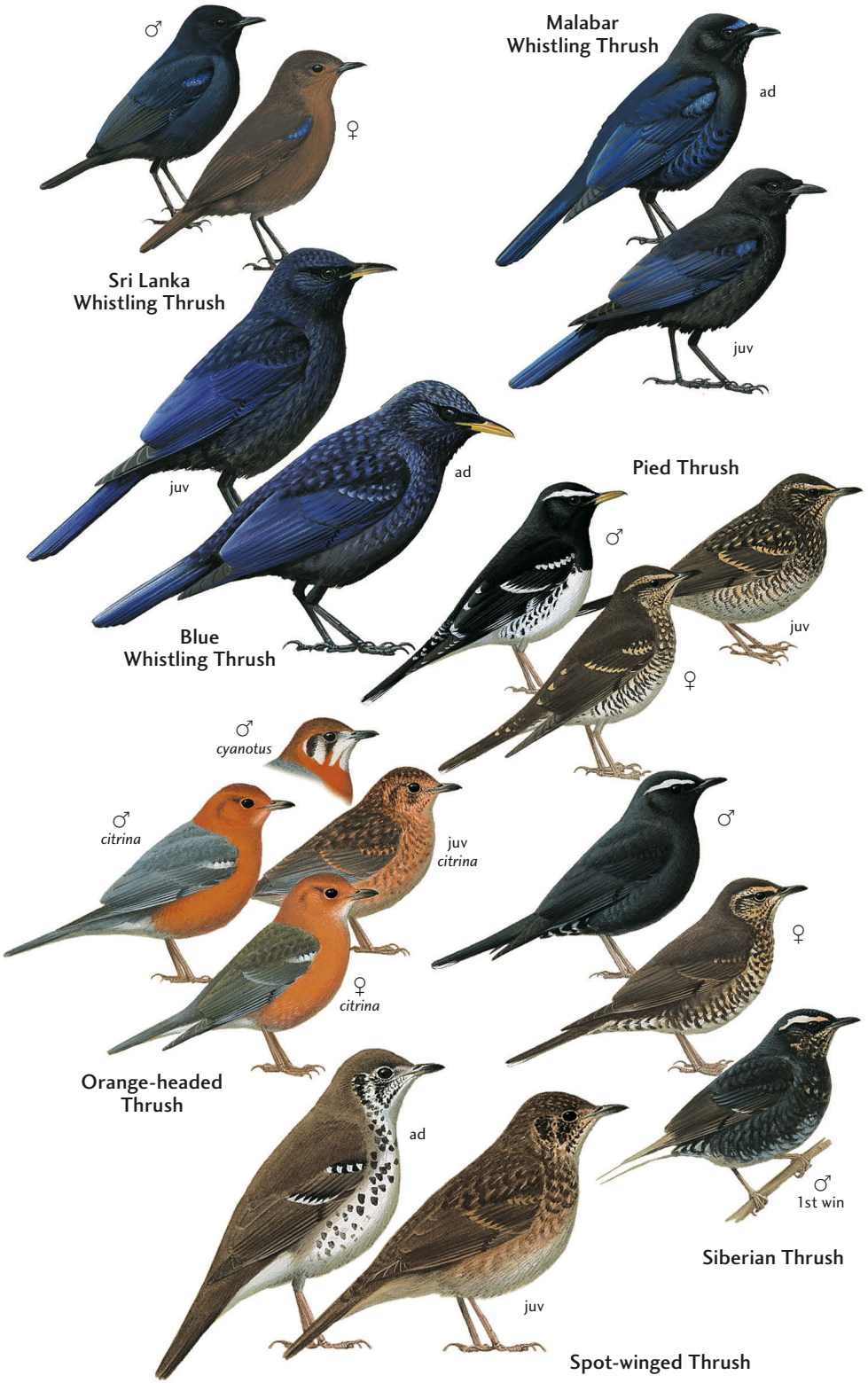
Siberian Thrush *Zoothera sibirica* 22 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly Manipur hills and Andamans. **ID** Male slate-grey, with white supercilium. First-winter male has buff supercilium, throat and greater-covert bar. Female has buff supercilium, dark malar stripe, and scaling on underparts. Compared with female Pied, supercilium typically extends around ear-covers, wing-bars are much less prominent or non-existent, lacks pale tips to tertials, and flanks are washed with olive-brown. In flight, shows white banding across underwing and white corners to tail. **Voice** Soft *stit* call. **HH** Forest.



Spot-winged Thrush *Zoothera spiloptera* 27 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult has diffuse black crescent behind ear-coverts and patch through eye, bold (but sparse) black spotting on white breast and flanks, and prominent white tips to median and greater coverts. Juvenile has diffuse head pattern, buff streaking on mantle, scaled breast, and less-distinct buff tips to wing coverts. **Voice** Song is a distinctive, varied, rich whistled melody. **HH** Moist forest and well-wooded areas.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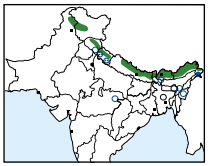
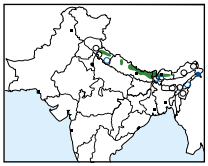


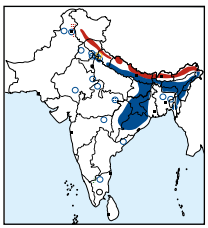
Plain-backed Thrush *Zoothera mollissima* 27 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** From very similar Long-tailed Thrush by indistinct (or absent) wing-bars (can show narrow buff tips to median and greater coverts). In addition, belly and flanks are generally more clearly scaled with black. Further, has more rufescent coloration to upperparts, especially to uppertail-coverts/rump and tail (valid in C and E Himalayas only), less pronounced pale wing-panel, and shorter tail. In flight, shows broad whitish banding across underwing (as does Long-tailed). **Voice** Song is similar to Scaly Thrush's, a series of chirps, trill and squeaks. **HH** Summers on rocky and grassy slopes with bushes; winters in forest and open country with bushes.



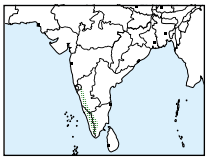
Long-tailed Thrush *Zoothera dixoni* 27 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Best told from Plain-backed by comparatively broad and prominent wing-bars (buff tips to median coverts form distinct spotting); belly and flanks are more sparsely marked with black, and flank markings appear more bar-like in shape (on some, almost spotted). Further subtle differences include greyer upperparts (valid in C and E Himalayas only), more boldly marked face (with more clearly defined dark malar and ear-covert spot), more pronounced pale panel on wing, and longer tail. **Voice** Song is long-sustained, rambling series of mainly harsh notes. **HH** Undergrowth in forest; in winter, also open country with bushes.



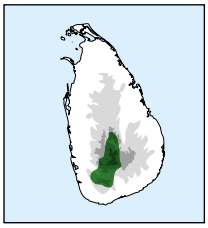
Scaly Thrush *Zoothera dauma* 26–27 cm

Breeds in Himalayas and winters south to Orissa. **ID** Boldly scaled with pale face, large black eye, and dark patch on ear-coverts. From Plain-backed and Long-tailed by bold black scaling on golden-olive upperparts, and golden-olive panels across wing, with dark bar at tip of primary coverts. Juvenile has more barred than scaled upperparts, and breast is distinctly spotted. **Voice** Song is a slow broken *chirrup… chwee… chwee… weep… chirrol… chup*. **HH** Forest; also well-wooded areas in winter.



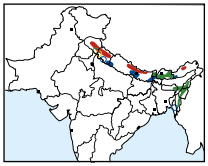
Nilgiri Thrush *Zoothera* (*dauma*) *neilgherriensis* 25.5 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** Has darker, browner and more uniform upperparts than Scaly (mantle and scapulars lack the golden-olive subterminal spots which give Scaly its spangled appearance). Also bill is larger, and face is plainer and more regularly marked with black (lacking dark patches). **Voice** Apparently unrecorded. **HH** Dense evergreen forest and sholas.



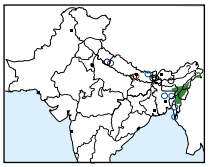
Sri Lanka Thrush *Zoothera imbricata* 23.5 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Strikingly different from Scaly: is smaller, with shorter tail, and bill is proportionately much longer; upperparts are darker olive-brown (lacking spangling); has rufous-buff ground colour to underparts, with narrower black scaling; and head is more uniformly marked. **Voice** Song is a soft, even, repeated whistle. **HH** Dense, moist forest. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Scaly Thrush *Z. dauma*.



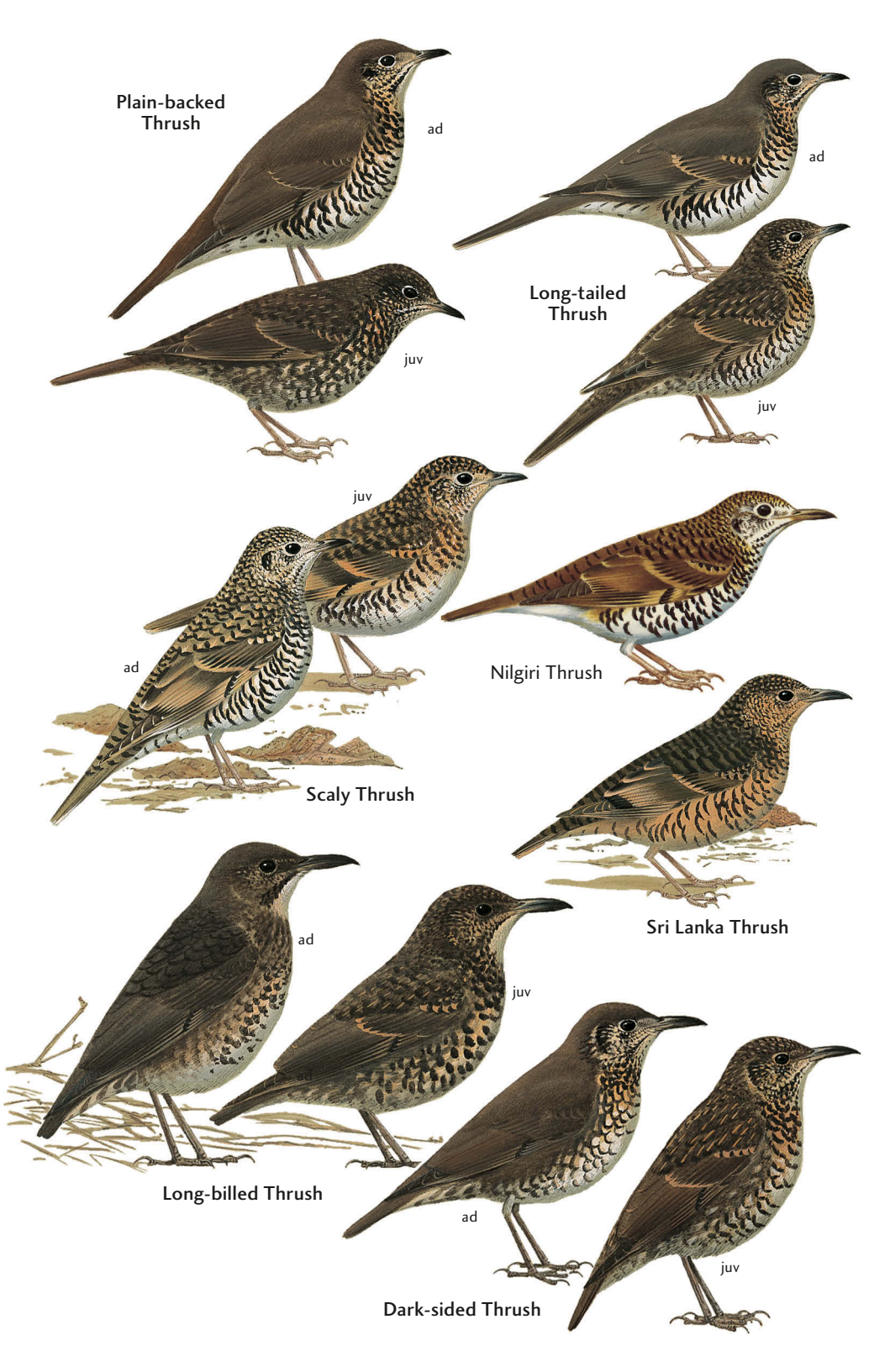
Long-billed Thrush *Zoothera monticola* 28 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** From Dark-sided by larger size and bill, more uniform head-sides (dark lores, diffuse dark malar stripe and narrow white throat patch), dark slaty-olive upperparts, darker and more uniform breast and flanks (both with diffuse dark spotting), and dark spotting on whitish belly. Juv. has pale shaft streaks on upperparts, buff tips to wing-coverts, buffish underparts with bold dark spotting. **Voice** Song a loud, slow whistle of 2–3 notes. **HH** Dense forest.



Dark-sided Thrush *Zoothera marginata* 25 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** From Long-billed by smaller size, smaller bill, rufous-brown upperparts and wing-panel, and paler underparts with prominent scaling on breast and flanks; also more strongly patterned sides of head (variable, but usually with paler lores, more distinct dark and pale patches on ear-coverts, pale crescent behind). Juvenile has pale shaft streaks on upperparts, prominent buff tips to wing-coverts. **Voice** Song a thin whistle. **HH** Dense forest near streams.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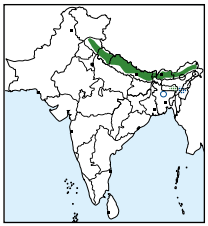
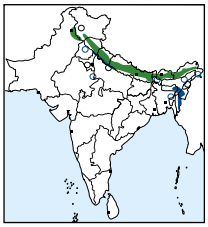


White-collared Blackbird *Turdus albocinctus* 27 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Adult male is mainly black, with white throat and broad white collar; bill and legs are yellow. Female has variable pale greyish-white to buffish collar, and rest of plumage is rufous-brown with pale feather fringes on underparts. Juvenile lacks collar; has orange-buff streaking on upperparts, orange-buff tips to coverts (forming double wing-bar), and orange-buff underparts with dark brown spotting and barring. **Voice** Song is a melancholy series of soft descending whistles, *hoo-ee, hoo-ou, hoo-uu*; calls like Black-throated Thrush, a coarse chuckling chatter. **HH** Broadleaved, coniferous and mixed broadleaved coniferous forest, forest clearings and edges.

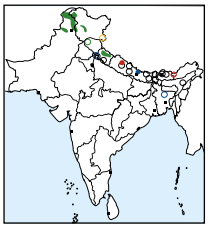


Grey-winged Blackbird *Turdus boulboul* 28 cm

Resident in Himalayas and winters south to NE India. **ID** Adult male is black, with pale grey panel on wing. In fresh plumage, has prominent whitish fringes to belly and vent. Bill is orange and legs are yellowish. Female is olive-brown; has paler rufous-brown panel on wing (with greater coverts becoming paler buffish or greyish towards tips, contrasting with dark brown primary coverts). Juvenile has orange-buff streaking to upperparts, orange-buff tips to median coverts, and brown barring on orange-buff underparts; wing-panel is similar to adult. **Voice** A rich melodious song, with repeated two-note whistles; call is a *chook-chook-chook*. **HH** Summers in moist broadleaved and mixed broadleaved-coniferous forest, favours oaks; winters in open forest, forest and forest edges.

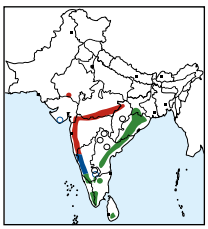
Common Blackbird *Turdus merula* 25–28 cm

Probably breeding visitor to NW Pakistan; winter visitor to Baluchistan. **ID** Adult male is brownish-black, with yellow orbital ring and bill. Female is dark brown, with brown bill; has whitish throat, streaked dark brown, with diffuse dark brown spotting on breast. **Voice** Song is a rich mellow series of long warbling whistles. **HH** Breeds in bushes and small trees in river valleys; winters in forest and thickets. **AN** Eurasian Blackbird.



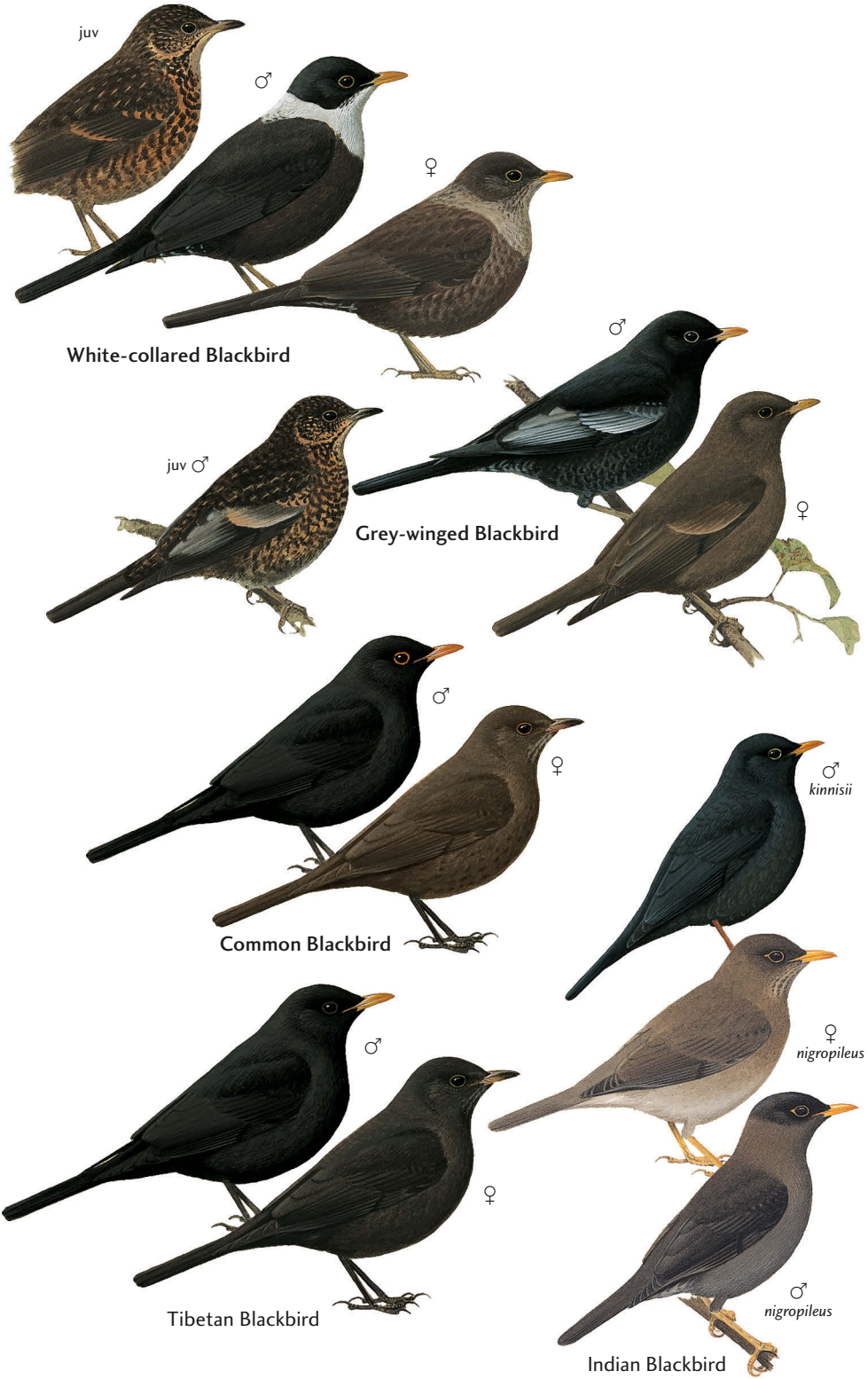
Tibetan Blackbird *Turdus* (*merula*) *maximus* 26–29 cm

Resident in NW Himalayas. Winters from Uttarakhand to Arunachal Pradesh. **ID** Larger with longer wings and tail than Common Blackbird. Male is black, and lacks yellow orbital ring. Female is uniform dark brown, lacking paler throat. Juvenile has rufous-buff underparts with diffuse dark brown barring and spotting, back and rump are variably spotted and barred with rufous-buff, and crown and mantle tend to be rather uniform dark brown (male) or pale brown (female). **Voice** Song is a mournful repeated whistle, *piew-piew*; call is a rattling *chak-chak-chak*. **HH** Summers on rocky and grassy slopes with dwarf juniper; winters in juniper stands or shrub.



Indian Blackbird *Turdus* (*merula*) *simillimus* 24.5 cm

Resident. Hills of peninsula and Sri Lanka. **ID** Variable. Male *T. m. nigropileus/spencei/simillimus* have brownish slate-grey upperparts, with darker brown to blackish crown and ear-coverts resulting in capped effect (especially in *nigropileus*) and underparts are paler brownish-grey, with whitish lower belly and undertail-coverts in *spencei*. All have distinct eye-ring and patch of orange post-orbital skin, and orange legs and feet. Females are more uniform brown, with paler underparts; lack distinct dark malar of female Tickell's Thrush. Juveniles have buffish underparts with broad dark barring and spotting, and indistinct buff shaft streaking on upperparts. Males of *T. m. bourdilloni* (SW peninsula) and *T. m. kinnisii* (Sri Lanka) are uniform slate-grey (purer bluish-grey in *kinnisii*). Bare parts of *kinnisii* can be bright red. Female *bourdilloni* is fairly uniform olive-brown, with warmer buffish olive-brown on breast and a slightly paler (and diffusely streaked) throat. Female *kinnisii* is similar to male, but duller and browner. **Voice** A loud melodious song resembling that of Oriental Magpie Robin, with much mimicry of other species; calls include a hard, rapid rattle. Song of *T. m. kinnisii* is a distinctive, long series of warbling whistles; call is a *kack kack*. **HH** Moist forest, sholas and wooded ravines.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White-collared Blackbird
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nigropileus
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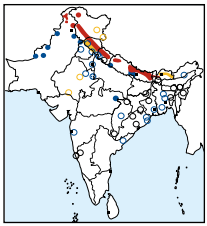
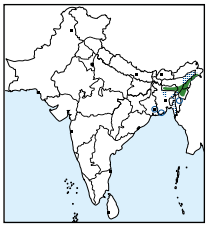


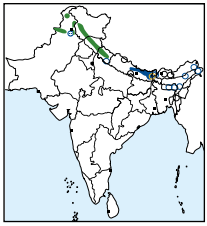
Tickell's Thrush *Turdus unicolor* 21 cm

Resident. Summers in Himalayas; winters mainly farther east and south in India. **ID** Small, compact thrush with rather plain face, small yellowish or pale brown bill, and pale legs. Male pale bluish-grey, with whitish belly and vent. Has yellow bill and fine yellow eye-ring. First-winter male is similar but with pale throat and submoustachial stripe and dark malar stripe, and often with spotting on breast. Female from female Indian Blackbird by combination of smaller size, finer bill, white throat, dark malar stripe, spotting on breast (if present), and orange-buff wash to breast and flanks. Juvenile has dark olive-brown upperparts with fine orange-buff shaft streaks, orange-buff tips to coverts, and heavily barred and spotted breast and flanks. **Voice** Song has weak monotonous repeated disyllabic or trisyllabic phrases; call is a soft *juk-juk*. **HH** Summers in open forest, groves wooded gardens, terraced cultivation with deciduous trees, and orchards, also heavy forest in Kashmir; winters in groves and well-wooded areas.



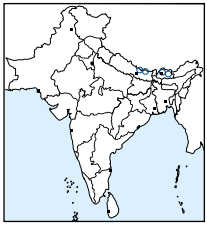
Black-breasted Thrush *Turdus dissimilis* 22 cm

Resident in NE India; winters south to Bangladesh. **ID** Male has black head and breast, grey upperparts, orange lower breast and flanks, and white belly and vent. Female has dark olive-grey upperparts, plain face, prominent dark (streaked) malar stripe and dark spotting across olive-grey upper breast, whitish throat (with variable dark streaking) and submoustachial stripe, and orange lower breast and flanks. Absence of supercilium and boldly spotted breast separate it from Eyebrowed Thrush. Juvenile has buff streaking on upperparts, and heavily barred and spotted underparts with ochraceous wash. **Voice** Song is sweet and mellow, typical of the genus, consisting of 3–8 notes per phrase; calls are a resounding *tup-tup… tup-tup-tup-tup-tup* etc and a thin *see*. **HH** Breeds in moist, broadleaved evergreen forest; also scrub and mangroves in winter.



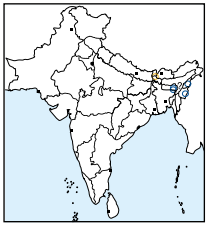
Chestnut Thrush *Turdus rubrocanus* 27 cm

Resident in far W Himalayas, winters from Nepal east to NE India. **ID** Male has grey head with buffish-grey collar; rest of body is mainly chestnut, and has blackish wings and tail. Female is very similar, but duller; head and hind neck are pale brownish-grey (lacking distinct collar), and wings and tail are brown. Juvenile has buff shaft streaking on the upperparts and dark spotting and barring on the underparts; back, rump and uppertail-coverts have a distinct chestnut cast. Compared with the nominate race, male *T. r. gouldii* (rare E Himalayas and NE in winter) has a darker slate-grey head and neck (lacking collared effect); female has a darker brownish-grey head. **Voice** Song comprises of a series of series of short phrases, repeated 3–8 times; has a *kwik* alarm call. **HH** Summers in coniferous and mixed forest; winters in open wooded areas and orchards.



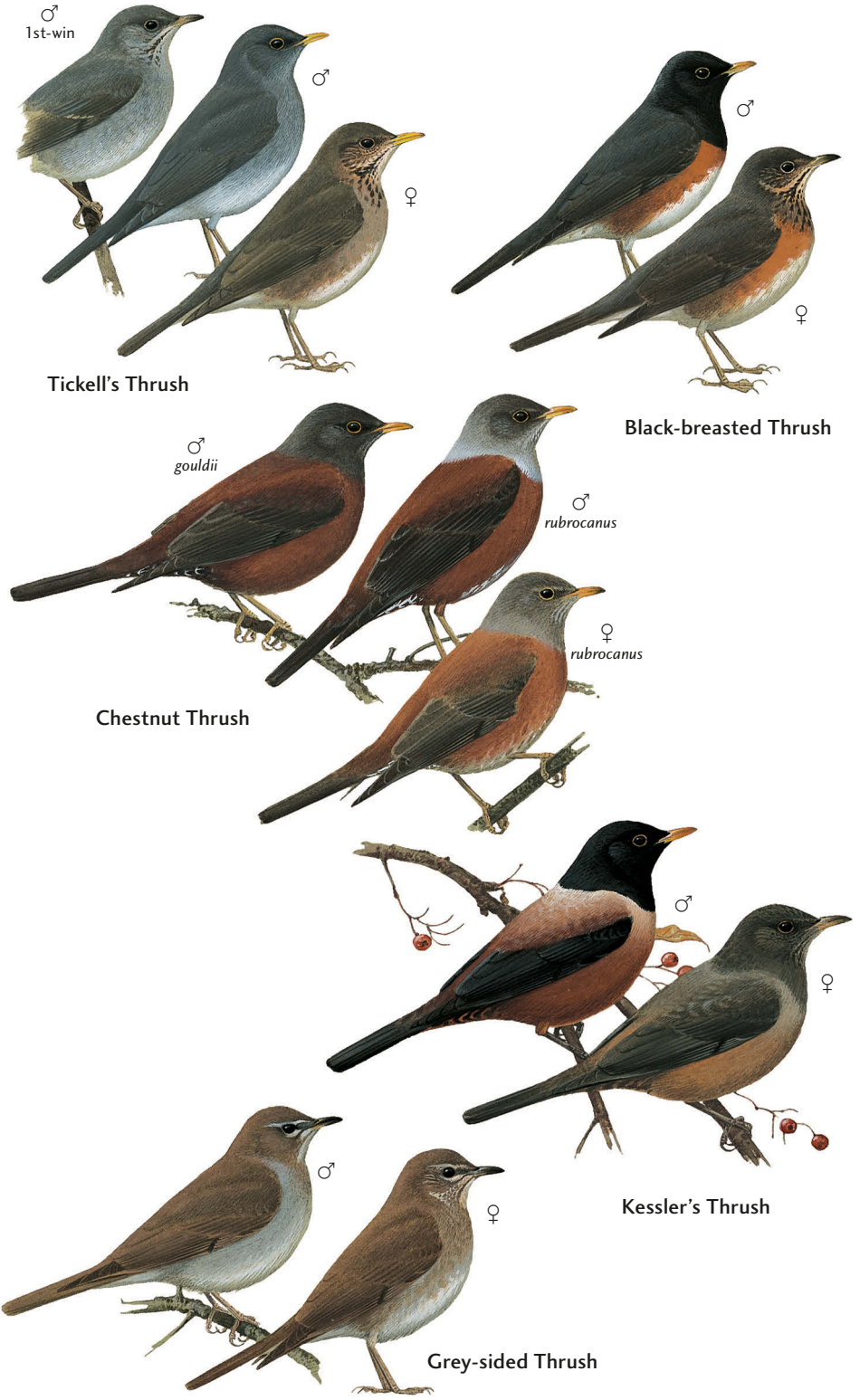
Kessler's Thrush *Turdus kessleri* 27 cm

Winter visitor. E Himalayas. **ID** Male from Chestnut by black head, neck and upper breast, and creamy-white mantle and lower breast. Female mirrors patterning of male: head, neck and breast are greyish-brown, mantle is variably pale grey-brown to greyish-cream but always shows contrast with hind neck, and shows variable, diffuse buffish division between brown of upper breast and ginger-brown of rest of underparts; rump and uppertail-coverts have distinct ginger cast. **Voice** Call is a soft *dug dug*. **HH** Shrubberies and stands of juniper, *Berberis* bushes and potato fields.



Grey-sided Thrush *Turdus feae* 24 cm

Winter visitor. NE India. **ID** Superficially resembles Eyebrowed, with white supercilium, dark lores, and white crescent below eye. Adult male has rufescent-olive upperparts, including crown and ear-coverts, and grey underparts, becoming paler on belly and vent. Female is similar to male, but has white throat, and centre to breast and belly are whiter; has brown-streaked malar stripe; grey of breast and flanks is variably washed with orange-buff, and coloration of underparts can approach that of the dullest Eyebrowed. Best told by rufescent coloration to crown, ear-coverts and sides of neck (these areas have distinct greyish cast on Eyebrowed). First-winter similar to female, but with pale tips to greater coverts. **Voice** Unrecorded in region. **HH** Habitat unrecorded in region. Globally threatened.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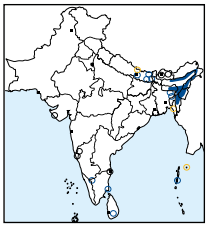
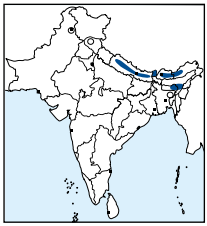


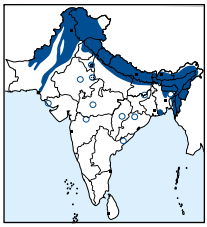
Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* 23 cm

Winter visitor. E Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Striking features are white supercilium and white crescent below eye, contrasting with dark lores. From Grey-sided by peachy-orange flanks contrasting with white belly. Adult male has blue-grey head, including throat, with just a small area of white on chin. Female has olive-brown crown and nape, browner ear-coverts, white throat and submoustachial stripe, dark malar stripe, narrow grey gorget across upper breast, and duller orange breast and flanks. First-winter similar to female, but has fine greater-covert wing-bar; first-winter males are brighter, with more grey on ear-coverts and upper breast. **Voice** Call is a thin drawn-out *tseep*. **HH** Open forest.



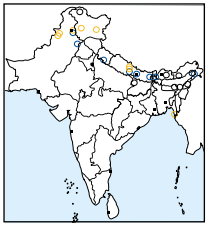
Red-throated Thrush *Turdus ruficollis* 25 cm

Winter visitor. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Uniform grey upperparts and wings. Always shows reddish-orange at sides of tail, which can be very prominent in flight (from below undertail can appear entirely orange). Adult male has red supercilium, throat and breast (with narrow white fringes in fresh plumage), grey upperparts, and whitish underparts. Female is similar to male, but typically has white or buffish throat and black-streaked malar stripe, and red of breast is a gorget of spotting. First-winter has white tips to greater coverts and pale-fringed tertials. First-winter male resembles adult female. First-winter female is less heavily marked, and has finely streaked breast and flanks; usually shows rufous wash to supercilium and throat and/or breast. **Voice** Calls include a thin *see* and a hard *tack-tack*. **HH** Forest, forest edges, cultivation and pastures with scattered trees.



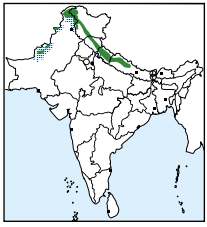
Black-throated Thrush *Turdus atrogularis* 26.5 cm

Winter visitor. N subcontinent. **ID** Adult male has black supercilium, throat and breast (with narrow white fringes in fresh plumage), grey upperparts, and whitish underparts. Female is similar to male, but typically has white or buffish throat and black-streaked malar stripe, and black gorget of spotting across breast. First-winter has fine white supercilium and white tips to greater coverts and pale-fringed tertials. First-winter male resembles adult female. First-winter female is less heavily marked, and has finely streaked breast and flanks. **Voice** Calls include a shrill rattle in alarm and high-pitched squeaky contacts notes. **HH** Habitat as Red-throated. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Red-throated Thrush *T. ruficollis*, under the name Dark-throated Thrush.



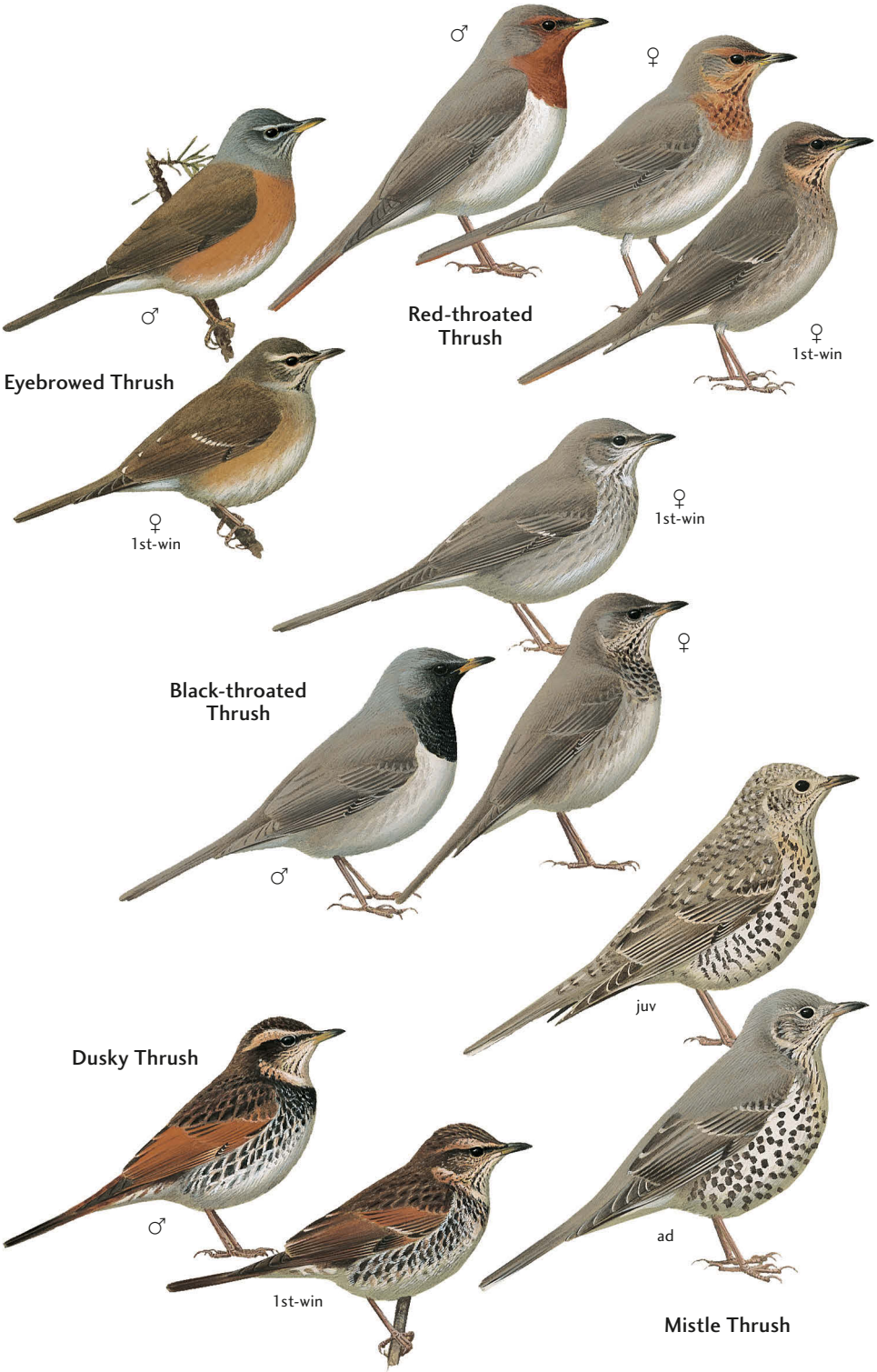
Dusky Thrush *Turdus eunomus* 24 cm

Winter visitor. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Adult male has a broad white supercilium and throat that contrasts with the dark crown and ear-coverts, a chestnut wing-panel, a rufous-brown mantle with dark feather centres, a double gorget of blackish spotting across breast, and bold spotting on the flanks contrasting with the white of the underparts. Female is similar to the male, but is usually duller and less strikingly patterned, and usually shows a more distinct black-streaked malar stripe. First-winter is variable, and duller than the adult: crown and ear-coverts are greyer and the supercilium less pronounced, the double gorget of spotting less distinct, upperparts greyer, and has browner (and less distinct) wing-panel. **Voice** Calls include a shrill *shrree* and a rather harsh *chack-chack*. **HH** Open cultivated areas and pastures with scattered trees. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Naumann's Thrush *T. naumanni*.



Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus* 27 cm

Resident. Baluchistan and W Himalayas. **ID** Large size, pale grey-brown upperparts, whitish edges to wing feathers, and spotted breast. Juvenile has buffish-white spotting to upperparts; lacks golden-buff bands on wing of Scaly Thrush. **Voice** Song is loud, ringing and rather melancholy, with short repeated phrases and long pauses. **HH** Summers in open coniferous forest, and juniper shrubberies, also in open rocky areas with stunted junipers and in orchards in high montane valleys; winters on grassy slopes and at forest edges.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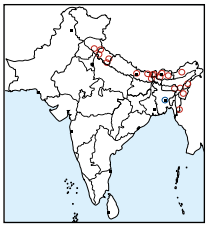
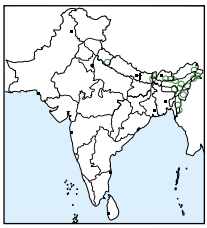


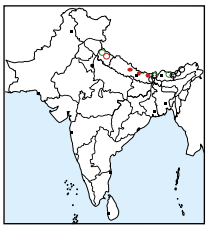
Purple Cochoa *Cochoa purpurea* 30 cm

Summer visitor. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Adult male is dull purplish-grey with lilac-blue crown, black mask, lilac panelling on wing, and lilac tail with black tip. Adult female recalls male (with similar patterning to wings and tail) but has rusty-brown upperparts and brownish-orange underparts. Juvenile has black scaling to crown, indistinct buff streaking and spotting on upperparts, orange-buff underparts with bold black barring, and buff tips to wing-coverts; wings and tail as adult. **Voice** Song is a flute-like *peeeee*; also *peeee-you-peeee.*; call is a low chuckle. **HH** Mainly dense, moist broadleaved evergreen forest.



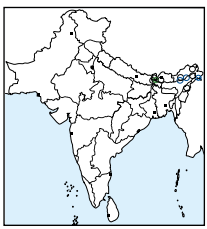
Green Cochoa *Cochoa viridis* 28 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Adult is mainly green, with blue crown and nape (with blackish mask), faint black scaling on mantle, pale blue panelling across wing, and pale blue tail with black tip. As on Purple, tail is wholly black from below. Sexes are similar, but female has green at base of secondaries. Juvenile has wing and tail patterns as adult, but has white crown with black scaling, orange-buff spotting and dark scaling on upperparts and underparts, and buff tips to wing-coverts. **Voice** Gives a pure, drawn-out monotone whistle, thinner and weaker than that of Purple. **HH** Dense moist, broadleaved evergreen forest.



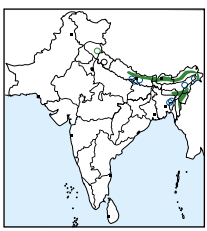
Gould's Shortwing *Heteroxenicus stellatus* 13 cm

Resident or summer visitor. Himalayas. **ID** Adult has chestnut upperparts, slate-grey underparts (blacker around face) with white star-shaped spotting on belly and flanks, and fine greyish-white supercilium extending to eye. Juvenile has rufous streaking on head, mantle and breast, and greyish-black belly and flanks with broad whitish V-shaped spots. **Voice** Song beings with a series of very high-pitched notes which gradually become louder and accelerating. **HH** Breeds in dense rhododendron and bamboo growth, juniper shrubberies, and thick undergrowth in fir and rhododendron forest; winters in forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Brachypteryx*.



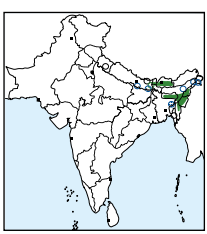
Rusty-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx hyperythra* 13 cm

Resident. E Himalayas. **ID** Male has a short white supercilium (often obscured) and black lores, blue upperparts including wings and tail, and rufous-orange underparts. Shorter tail and less pronounced supercilium help separate from Indian Blue Robin. Terrestrial habits, orange chin and undertail-coverts, shorter tail and longer legs help separate from Snowy-browed Flycatcher. Female has olive-brown upperparts, paler rufous-orange underparts with whitish centre to belly, and lacks the white supercilium. **Voice** Song is similar to that of Lesser Shortwing but faster, longer and more musical, a high speed warble. **HH** Winters in forest undergrowth and thickets.



White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Larger than Lesser with longer tail and dark legs. Male dark slaty-blue, with black lores and fine white supercilium. Female has brown upperparts with more rufescent wings, and brownish underparts with paler belly. Rufous-orange lores and more uniform brownish underparts (lacking striking white throat and belly) help separate from female Lesser. Immature male is similar to female, but has fine white supercilium. Juvenile has orange-buff spotting on underparts. **Voice** Song consists of high-pitched penetrating whistles, often introduced by slower disyllabic notes; calls include a scolding rattle and penetrating whistled *hweeep*. **HH** Undergrowth in moist, dense evergreen forest and thickets in damp ravines.



Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophris* 13 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Smaller and shorter-tailed than White-browed, with long pinkish legs. Male pale slaty-blue with white throat and belly. Female has rufous-brown upperparts, white throat and belly, and rufous-brown wash and diffuse scaling on breast and flanks. Both sexes have fine white supercilium which is often obscured. First-year male similar to female but greyer above and on breast. Male *B. l. carolinae* (NE Indian hills) does not occur in grey form, and has rufous upperparts and whitish underparts with variable scaling on breast. **Voice** Song is a brief melodious warble, accelerating into a rapid jumble; calls include hard *tock-tock* and plaintive whistle. **HH** Thick undergrowth in damp broadleaved forest.

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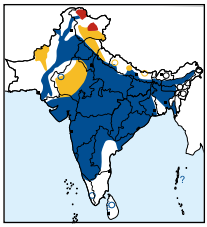
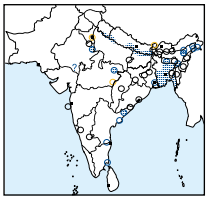
Lesser Shortwing



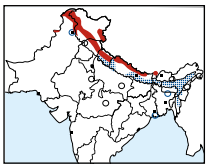
Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica* 15 cm

Summer visitor to NW Himalayas; widespread in winter. **ID** Has prominent white supercilium and rufous tail sides in all plumages. Male has variable blue, black and rufous patterning to throat and breast (obscured by whitish fringes in fresh plumage). Female has black submoustachial stripe and band of black spotting across breast; older females can have breast bands of blue and rufous. *L. s. abbotti* is form breeding in NW and nominate is one of at least two forms wintering in the region. **Voice** Song is long and varied, with characteristic accelerating bell-like notes such as *tree tree tree tree*; call is a deep *chack* or *chack-chack*. **HH** Summers in scrub along streams and lakes; winters in scrub and tall grass.



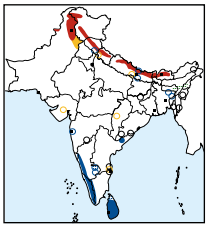
Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope* 14 cm

Winter visitor. Himalayan foothills, peninsula and NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male lacks black breast-band and white sides and tip to tail of White-tailed, and has olive-brown upperparts. Female from female White-tailed Rubythroat by olive-brown upperparts, olive-buff wash to breast and flanks, lack of white tip to tail, and has pale brown or pinkish legs. First-winter as adult (i.e. male has red throat), with retained juvenile buff tips to greater coverts and tertials. **Voice** Calls include a loud, clear double whistle *ee-uh* and a hard *schak*. The song is a long, pleasant scratchy warble, often given during spring migration. **HH** Bushes and thick undergrowth.



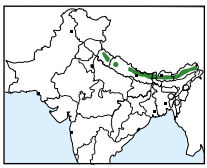
White-tailed Rubythroat *Luscinia pectoralis* 14 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas; winters mainly foothills and NE India. **ID** Male from Siberian by black breast (fringed white when fresh), greyer upperparts, and blackish tail with white sides and tip. Female from Siberian by grey-brown upperparts, grey breast and flanks contrasting with belly, white tail-tip, black legs. 1st-win as adult female, but buff tips to greater coverts and tertials. Male *L. p. tschebaiewi* has white moustachial stripe. **Voice** Song is a long series of rising and falling warbling trills and twitters; call is a harsh *ke*. **HH** Breeds subalpine scrub; winters marshy grassland.



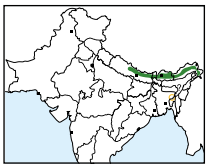
Indian Blue Robin *Luscinia brunnea* 15 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas and NE India; winters in NE and south. **ID** From White-browed Bush Robin by horizontal stance, short tail (frequently bobbed and fanned), and long pale legs and large feet. Male also by shorter and broader white supercilium, (usually) black ear-coverts, and whitish centre to belly and vent. Female has olive-brown upperparts, and orange-buff to brownish-buff underparts with striking white throat, belly and vent; lacks prominent supercilium. First-year male variable; some with buffish supercilium, dull blue upperparts, and dull orange breast and flanks. **Voice** Song comprises three or four piercing whistles followed by rapid, tumbling notes; hard *tek-tek-tek* call. **HH** Breeds in forest undergrowth; winters in forest and scrub.



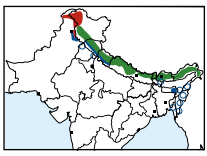
White-browed Bush Robin *Tarsiger indicus* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Upright stance, long tail (frequently cocked), and dark legs good features from Indian Blue Robin. Male also has longer and finer supercilium, greyer upperparts, and entirely rufous-orange underparts. Female has long (sometimes part-concealed) buffish-white supercilium, which curves down behind eye, and orange-buff throat concolorous with underparts. **Voice** Call is a repeated *trrrr*; song is a bubbling *shri-de-de-dew....shri-de-de-dew*. **HH** 1st-summer male can breed in female-like plumage. Forest undergrowth.



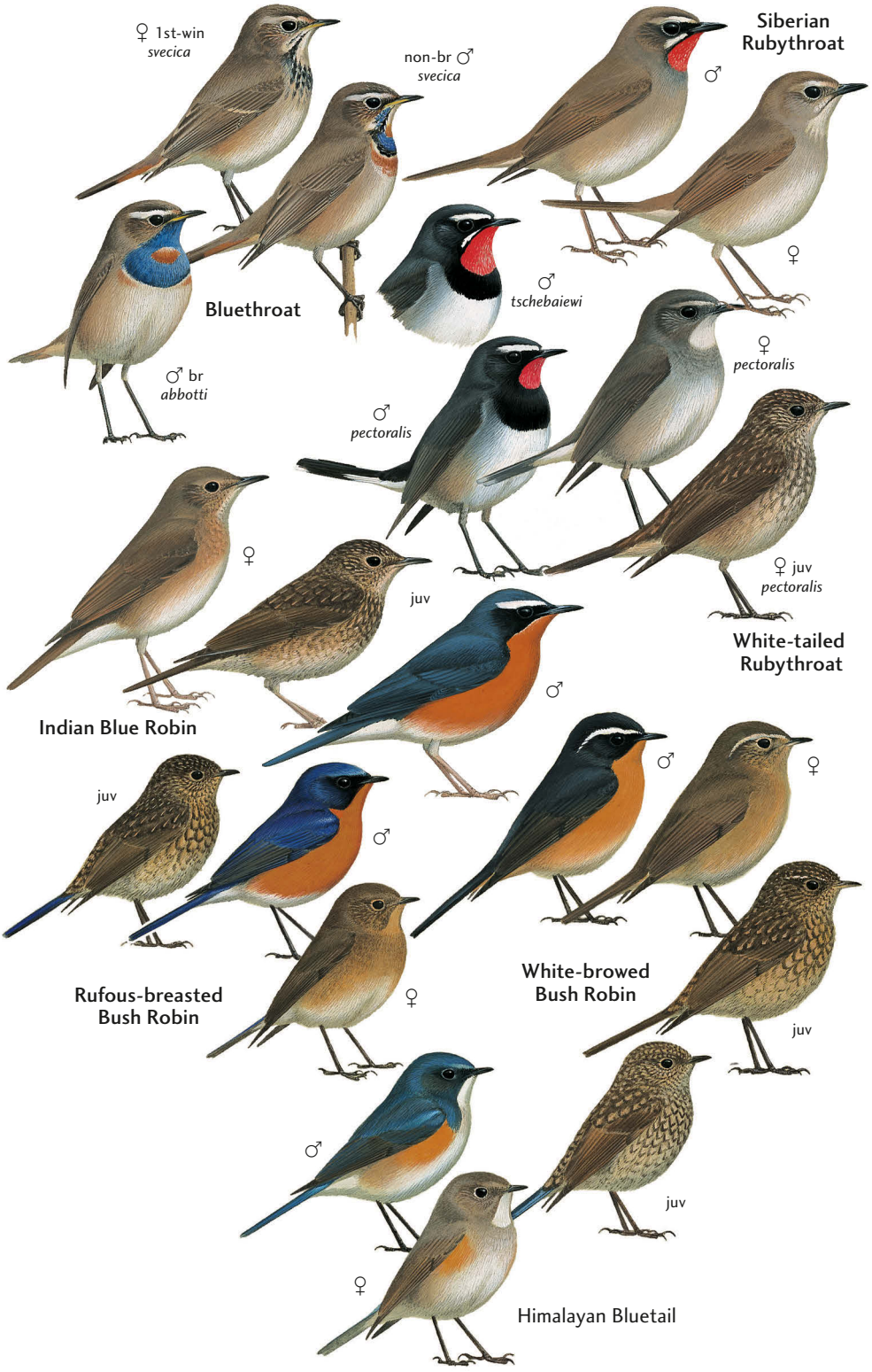
Rufous-breasted Bush Robin *Tarsiger hyperythrus* 15 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas; winters south to NE Indian hills. **ID** Carriage and profile as Himalayan Bluetail. Long legs help separate from blue flycatchers. Male has dark blue upperparts, blackish ear-coverts, glistening blue supercilium and shoulders, and rufous-orange underparts. Female has blue tail; compared with female Himalayan Bluetail has orange-buff throat, and browner breast and flanks. **Voice** Call is *duk-duk-duk-squeak*; song is lisping warble *zeew..zee.. zee..zee*. **HH** Summers in bushes at forest edges; winters in moist forest undergrowth.



Himalayan Bluetail *Tarsiger* (*cyanurus*) *rufilatus* 15 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas; winters south to NE Indian hills. **ID** White throat, orange flanks, blue tail, and redstart-like stance. Male has blue upperparts and breast sides. Female has olive-brown upperparts and breast sides. **Voice** Call is a deep croaking *tock-tock*; song is a rather soft and weak *churrh-cheee* or *dirrh-tutu-dirrh*. **HH** Forest understorey and dense bushes in forest clearings. **TN** Treated here as conspecific with Red-flanked Bluetail *T. cyanurus* (see Appendix).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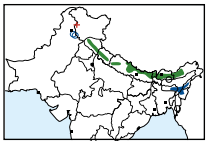
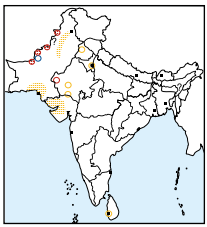
Himalayan Bluetail



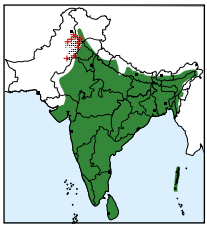
Golden Bush Robin *Tarsiger chrysaeus* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Male has blackish mask, orange supercilium, orange scapular line, orange underparts, and orange rump and sides to black tail. Female has duller (and less distinct) buffish-orange supercilium and underparts, uniform golden-olive upperparts, and pale orange uppertail-coverts and sides to olive-brown tail. Both sexes with long pale legs and pale lower mandible. Juvenile has tail similar to adult. **Voice** Song is a high wispy *tze-du-tee-tse*. **HH** Summers in subalpine shrub and forest undergrowth; winters in forest undergrowth.



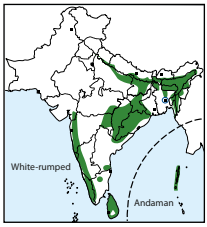
Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin *Cercotrichas galactotes* 15 cm

Southward passage migrant through Pakistan and NW India; also breeds in W Pakistan. **ID** Has bright rufous rump and long, fan-shaped tail, the latter frequently held acutely cocked. Outer rectrices are tipped with white and subterminally marked with black. Adult has creamy-white supercilium with black eye-stripe, blackish moustachial line, sandy-grey upperparts with pale fringes to wing feathers, and creamy-white underparts. Juvenile has faint mottling on throat and breast. **Voice** Call is a hard *teck teck*; song is rich and varied. **HH** Dry scrub jungle.



Oriental Magpie Robin *Copsychus saularis* 20 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in most of the northwest. **ID** In all plumages, has white wing patch and white at sides to long, frequently cocked tail. Male has glossy blue-black head, upperparts and breast. Female has bluish-grey head, upperparts and breast. Juvenile has indistinct orange-buff spotting on upperparts, and orange-buff wash and diffuse dark scaling on throat and breast. Female *C. s. ceylonensis* (Sri Lanka) has darker, glossy blue upperparts. Female *C. s. andamanensis* (Andamans) also has slight gloss to upperparts and rufous wash to underparts. **Voice** Has spirited, clear and varied whistling song. **HH** Gardens, groves and open broadleaved forest.

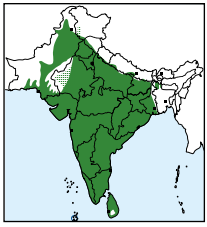


White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus* 25 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE, E and W India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Long, graduated dark tail with white sides and rump. Male has glossy blue-black upperparts and breast, rufous-orange underparts. Female duller, with brownish-grey upperparts; tail shorter and squarer. Juvenile has orange-buff spotting on upperparts, and orange-buff throat and breast with fine scaling. Female *C. m. leggei* (Sri Lanka) similar to male. **Voice** Song a rich melody. **HH** Forest undergrowth.

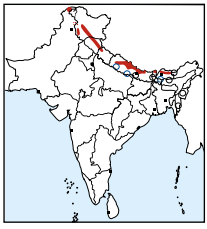
Andaman Shama *Copsychus* (*malabaricus*) *albiventris* 21 cm

Resident. Andamans. **ID** Male similar to White-rumped but has white belly; female is similar to male, but with shorter tail and less gloss on throat and upperparts. **Voice** Song like White-rumped but shorter and has more guttural tone. **HH** Dense forest, scrub and gardens.



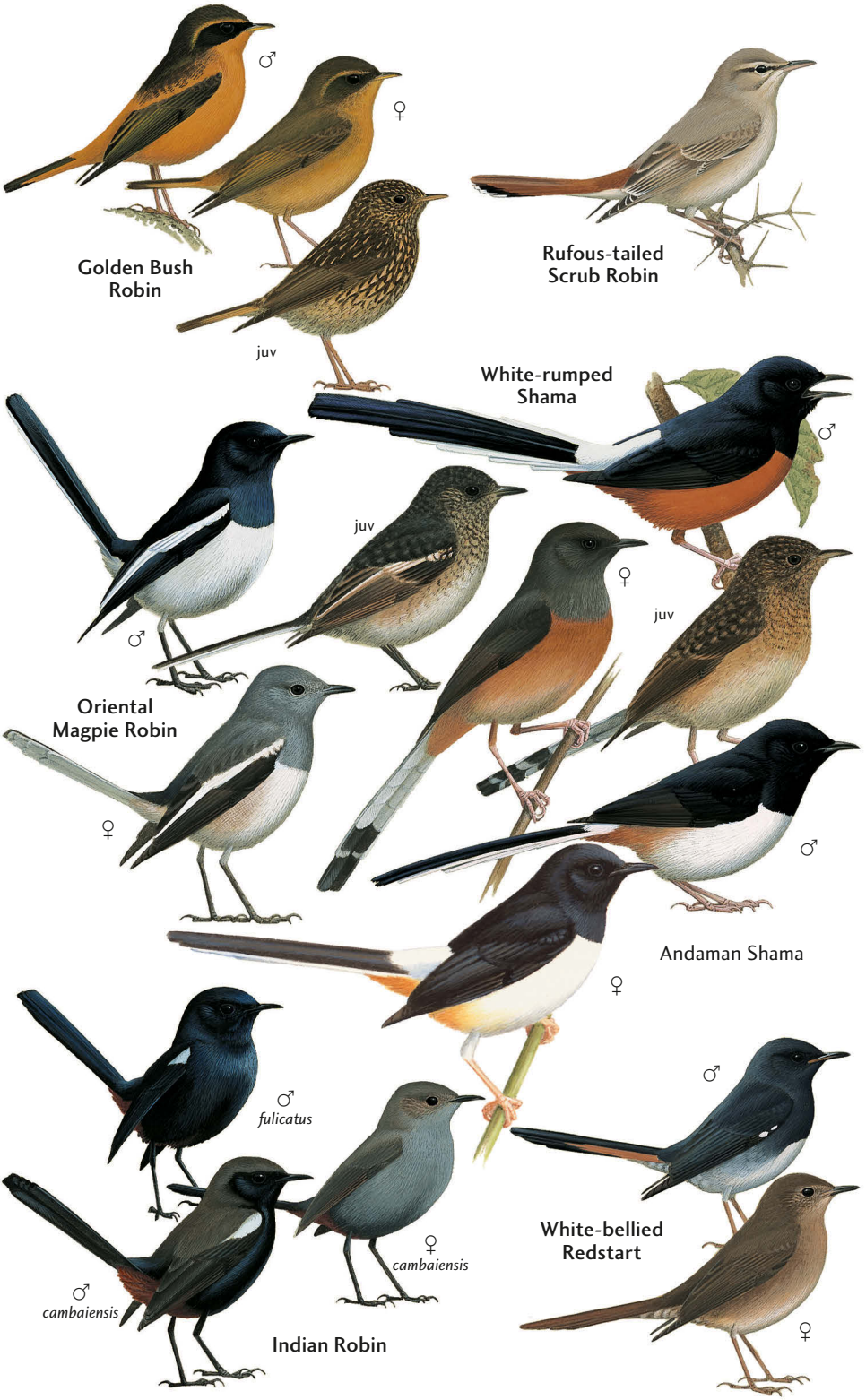
Indian Robin *Saxicoloides fulicatus* 19 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Has reddish vent and black tail (which is frequently held cocked) in all plumages. Male has white shoulders and black underparts. Female has greyish underparts. Juvenile is darker brown than female; lacks spotting and scaling which is typical of juvenile chats, but throat is lightly mottled. In Sri Lanka and S India (e.g. nominate) upperparts of male glossy blue-black (grey in northern subspecies). **Voice** Very short, high-pitched warbling song. **HH** Dry stony areas with scrub and cultivation edges.



White-bellied Redstart *Hodgsonius phoenicuroides* 18 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas; winters in foothills and NE Indian hills. **ID** Has long, graduated tail which is often held cocked and fanned. Male is almost entirely dark slaty-blue with white belly, rufous tail sides, and white spots on alula. Female has olive-brown upperparts, white throat and belly, and chestnut on tail. First-year male resembles female, but is darker brown in coloration; head, mantle and breast have some blue, and tail has blue cast. Juvenile has pale chestnut spotting on upperparts and dark scaling on underparts. **Voice** Song comprises three or four whistling notes. **HH** Breeds in subalpine shrubberies; winters in thick undergrowth.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Golden Bush Robin
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Rufous-tailed Scrub Robin
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White-bellied Redstart
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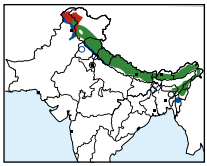
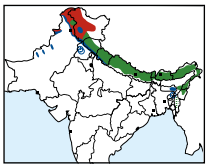


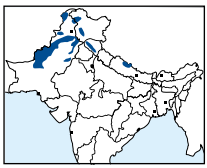
Plumbeous Water Redstart *Rhyacornis fuliginosa* 12 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas and NE Indian hills; winters south to Bangladesh. **ID** Stocky and short-tailed; constantly flicks open tail while moving it up and down. Male slaty-blue, with rufous-chestnut tail. Female and first-year male have black-and-white tail and white spotting on grey underparts. Juvenile resembles female (with same tail pattern), but has buff spotting on browner upperparts, and black scaling on buffish underparts. **Voice** Alarm call is a strident *peet-peet*. **HH** Mountain streams and rivers.



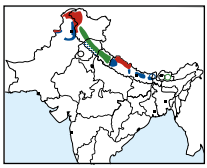
White-capped Redstart *Chaimarrornis leucocephalus* 19 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas and NE Indian hills; winters south to Baluchistan and Bangladesh. **ID** Adult has white cap and rufous tail with broad black terminal band. Juvenile has black fringes to white crown and blackish underparts with rufous fringes. **Voice** Call is a far-carrying, upward-inflected *tseeit tseeit*. **HH** Mainly mountain streams and rivers. **AN** White-capped Water Redstart.



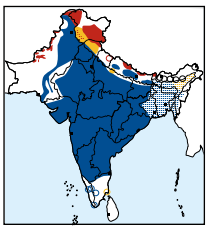
Eversmann's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythronotus* 16 cm

Winter visitor. Hills of Pakistan and W Himalayas. **ID** Large size. Can appear rather shrike-like, tail can be held slightly cocked, and flicks tail and drops wings in a flycatcher-like manner. Male has black mask and scapular line, grey crown, rufous throat and mantle, and white on wing; colours heavily obscured by pale fringes in non-breeding and first-winter plumages. Female has double buffish wing-bars and broad buff fringes to tertials. **Voice** Has soft croaking *gre-er* call. **HH** Dry hills and valleys with scrub. **AN** Rufous-backed Redstart.



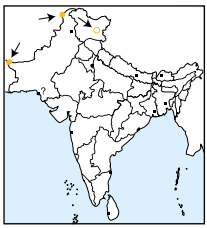
Blue-capped Redstart *Phoenicurus coeruleocephala* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Male has blue-grey cap, black tail, and white on wing; coloration heavily obscured by brown fringes in non-breeding and first-winter plumages (when crown appears browner). Female has grey underparts, prominent double wing-bar, blackish tail, and chestnut rump. Juvenile has dark brown barring on upperparts and underparts; juvenile male has broad white edges to tertials. **Voice** Pleasant repetitive warbling song; call is a rapid *tit-tit-tit*. **HH** Summers on rocky slopes with open forest; winters in open forest and secondary growth.



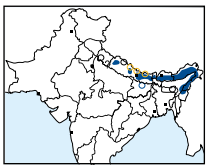
Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* 15 cm

Resident. Breeds in Pakistan mountains and N Himalayas; widespread in winter. **ID** Male has black or dark grey upperparts, black breast, and rufous underparts. Female and first-year male are almost entirely dusky brown with rufous-orange wash on lower flanks and belly. Juvenile has diffuse dark scaling on upperparts and underparts, and fine buff greater-covert bar. Male *P. o. phoenicuroides* (W Himalayas) has grey crown, nape and lower back; these areas are much blacker in *P. o. rufiventris* (C and E Himalayas). **Voice** Calls include a short *tsip*, scolding *tucc-tucc* and a rapid rattle. **HH** Breeds in Tibetan steppe habitat; winters in cultivation and plantations.



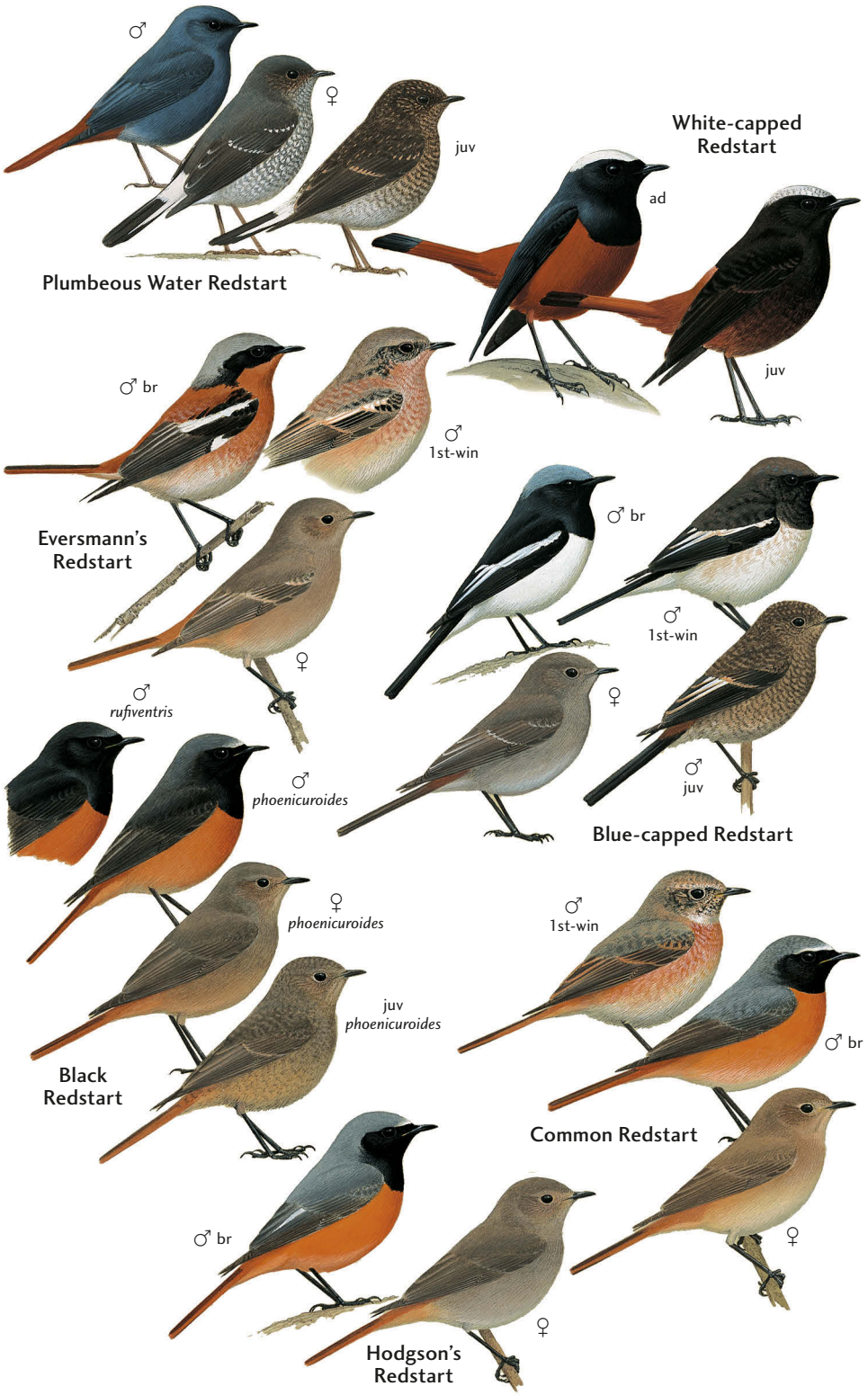
Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* 15 cm

Spring passage migrant. Mainly Pakistan. **ID** Male from male Black by paler grey crown, nape and mantle, generally more prominent white band across forehead and line to above eye, black of throat does not extend onto breast, and has white centre to belly. Lacks white wing flash of Hodgson's Redstart, and black of throat does not extend onto breast. Plumage duller and heavily obscured by pale fringes in non-breeding and first-winter plumage. Hodgson's does not have a distinct fresh plumage, and first-winter male of that species is as female. Female similar to female Black and Hodgson's, but has warmer brown upperparts and buffish underparts, with whiter throat and belly, and variable orange wash to breast and flanks. **Voice** Calls include a distinctive *hweet*. **HH** Arid areas.



Hodgson's Redstart *Phoenicurus hodgsoni* 15 cm

Winter visitor. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Male (both breeding and non-breeding) has grey upperparts, white wing patch, and black throat and upper breast. Female has dusky brown upperparts and grey underparts; very similar to Black but with whitish area on belly (and lacks rufous-orange wash to lower flanks and belly of that species). First-winter male as female. **Voice** Rattling calls including *prit* and *trr*. **HH** Stony river beds with trees, and bushes in cultivation.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Plumbeous Water Redstart
White-capped Redstart
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♂ 1st-win
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♂ rufiventris
♂ phoenicuroides
♂ juv
Blue-capped Redstart
♀ phoenicuroides
juv phoenicuroides
♂ 1st-win
♂ br
Black Redstart
Common Redstart
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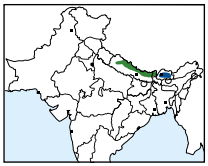
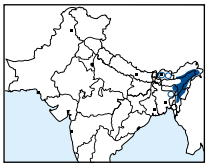
Hodgson's Redstart



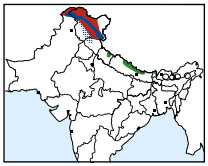
White-throated Redstart *Phoenicurus schisticeps* 15 cm

Resident and winter visitor. Himalayas; unrecorded in Pakistan. **ID** In all plumages has white throat, white wing patch, rufous rump and dark tail. Adult male has blue crown and nape (with brighter blue forehead), black ear-coverts and mantle, and rufous on scapulars and underparts. In fresh plumage, has rufous fringes to head and upperparts and buff fringes to underparts. Adult female has grey-brown head and mantle and paler grey-brown breast, becoming more buffish on belly. **HH** Breeds forest edge and hillside shrub; winters on bushy slopes and cultivation.



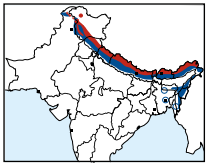
Daurian Redstart *Phoenicurus auroreus* 15 cm

Winter visitor to E Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Adult male (worn) has prominent white wing patch, blackish mantle, and black of throat does not extend onto breast. Adult male (fresh) and first-winter male have black of mantle and coverts partly obscured by brown fringes (mantle appears brown, diffusely streaked with black), and grey of crown and black of throat are duller owing to dark grey fringes. Adult female is similar to female Black, but has prominent white wing patch and darker centre to rufous tail. **HH** Breeds open forest and trees in cultivation; winters in bushes.



Güldenstädt's Redstart *Phoenicurus erythrogastrus* 18 cm

Resident and winter visitor. Himalayas. **ID** Large size and stocky appearance. Male has white cap, black upperparts, and large white patch on wing. Slightly duller in fresh plumage due to indistinct grey feathers fringes. Female has buff-brown upperparts and buffish underparts. First-winter as adult. **HH** Breeds in rocky alpine meadows; winters in stony pastures and scrub patches. **AN** White-winged Redstart.

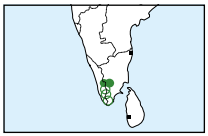


Blue-fronted Redstart *Phoenicurus frontalis* 15 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas; winters in Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Orange rump and tail sides, with black centre and tip to tail in all plumages. Male has blue head and upperparts and chestnut-orange underparts; heavily obscured by rufous-brown fringes in non-breeding and first-winter plumage. Female has dark brown upperparts and underparts, with orange wash to belly; tail pattern best feature from other female redstarts. **HH** Breeds in subalpine shrub; winters in bushes and open forest.

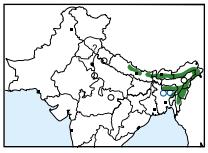
Nilgiri Blue Robin *Myiomela major* 15 cm

Resident. Hills of Kerala and Tamil Nadu north of Palghat Gap, and south Karnataka. **ID** Adult has variable bright blue forehead and supercilium to eye, slaty-blue head, breast and upperparts, and white belly. Flanks and undertail-coverts rufous-brown. Dense undergrowth in evergreen forest. Globally threatened. **TN** Formerly treated as White-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx major*.



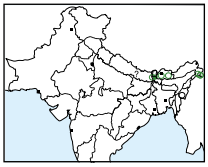
White-bellied Blue Robin *Myiomela albiventris* 15 cm

Resident. Hills of Kerala and Tamil Nadu south of Palghat Gap. **ID** As Nilgiri, but has slaty-blue flanks, concolorous with breast, and more striking (but variable) whitish or bluish-white forehead and supercilium to eye which contrast with blackish lores. **HH** Wet undergrowth in forest patches and densely wooded ravines, vegetation by streams. Globally threatened. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Nilgiri Blue Robin as White-bellied Shortwing *Brachypteryx major*.



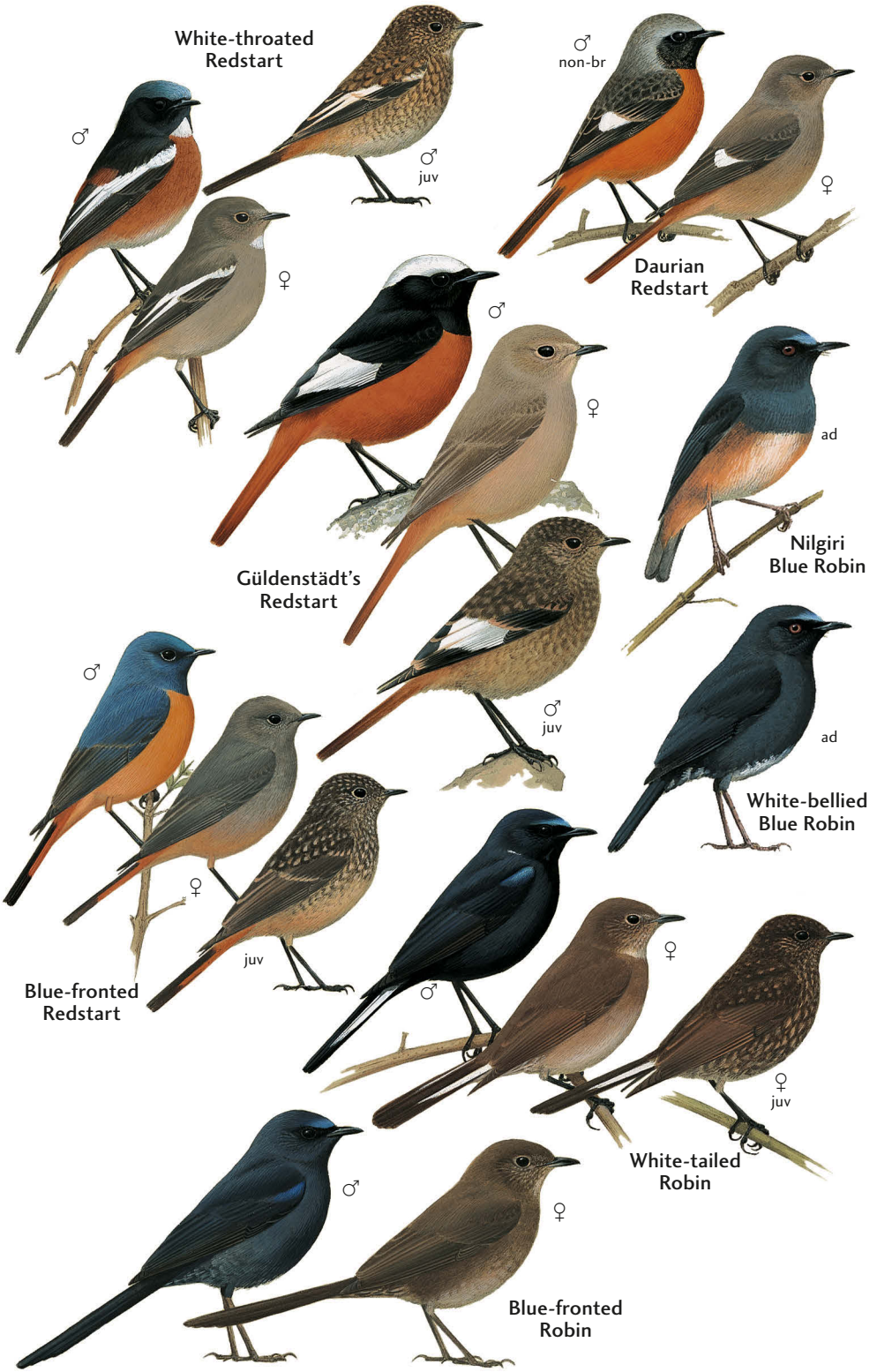
White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura* 18 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** White patches on tail in all plumages (visible as tail is slowly dipped and spread). Male blue-black, with glistening blue forehead and shoulders; has concealed white patch on side of neck. Female olive-brown, with whitish lower throat. First-year male similar to female but with blue on uppertail-coverts. **HH** Undergrowth in moist broadleaved forest.



Blue-fronted Robin *Cinclidium frontale* 19 cm

Resident. E Himalayas. Has long, graduated tail lacking any white or rufous. **ID** Male deep blue, with glistening blue forehead. Female from female White-bellied Redstart by dark brown tail and more uniform brown underparts. More terrestrial with longer legs compared with White-tailed Robin. First-year male is similar to female but has blue on forehead, and dark throat, lores and shoulders. Juvenile is dark brown except for buff streaks on throat and buff tips to belly feathers. **HH** Thickly vegetated gullies and dense vegetation at forest edges.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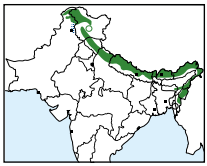
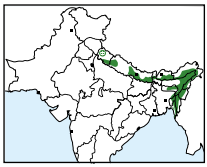
Blue-fronted Robin



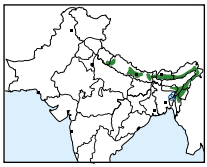
Little Forktail *Enicurus scouleri* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Small with short tail. Has black tail with prominent white sides, black band across white rump, and prominent white forehead. Tail is constantly wagged and flicked open. Juvenile lacks white forehead, has brownish-black upperparts, and white underparts with dark scaling on throat and breast. **Voice** Generally silent. **HH** Always keeps close to water; unlike other forktails is not dependent on tree cover. Constantly wags tail. Rushing mountain streams, often near waterfalls; also slower-moving streams and rivers in winter.



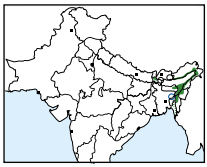
Black-backed Forktail *Enicurus immaculatus* 23 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Slaty-backed Forktail by black (rather than slate-grey) crown and mantle, generally smaller bill, and more white on forehead. Smaller, with white restricted to forehead, and white breast, compared with White-crowned. Juvenile has shorter tail, lacks white forehead and supercilium, has brownish-black upperparts, and dark scaling on white breast. **Voice** Call is a hollow *huu,* like a Grey Bushchat call, followed by a shrill *zeee*. **HH** Habits similar to Spotted Forktail's. Fast-flowing streams in moist tropical and subtropical broadleaved forest.



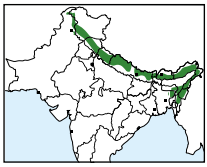
Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* 25 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** From Black-backed by slate-grey (rather than black) crown and mantle, contrasting with black throat and wing-coverts. Also bill is generally larger, and shows less white on forehead. Juvenile has shorter tail, lacks white forehead and supercilium, has brown upperparts, and has dark scaling on white breast. **Voice** Call is a mellow *cheet* or metallic *teenk*. **HH** Habits similar to Spotted's. Fast-flowing streams in forest and wooded lake margins in tropical and subtropical zones.



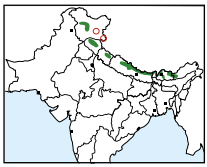
White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti* 28 cm

Resident. E Himalayan foothills and NE Indian hills. **ID** Resembles Black-backed, but is larger, with longer tail, and has prominent white forehead and forecrown, and black of throat extends to breast. Unspotted black mantle separates it from Spotted. Juvenile lacks white forehead, and has brownish-black upperparts, brownish-black throat and breast with white streaking, brown mottling on upper belly, and brown flanks. **Voice** Call is a harsh *scree* or *scree chit chit*; also has an elaborate, high-pitched whistling song. **HH** Habits similar to Spotted's. Fast-flowing rivers and streams in tropical evergreen forest.



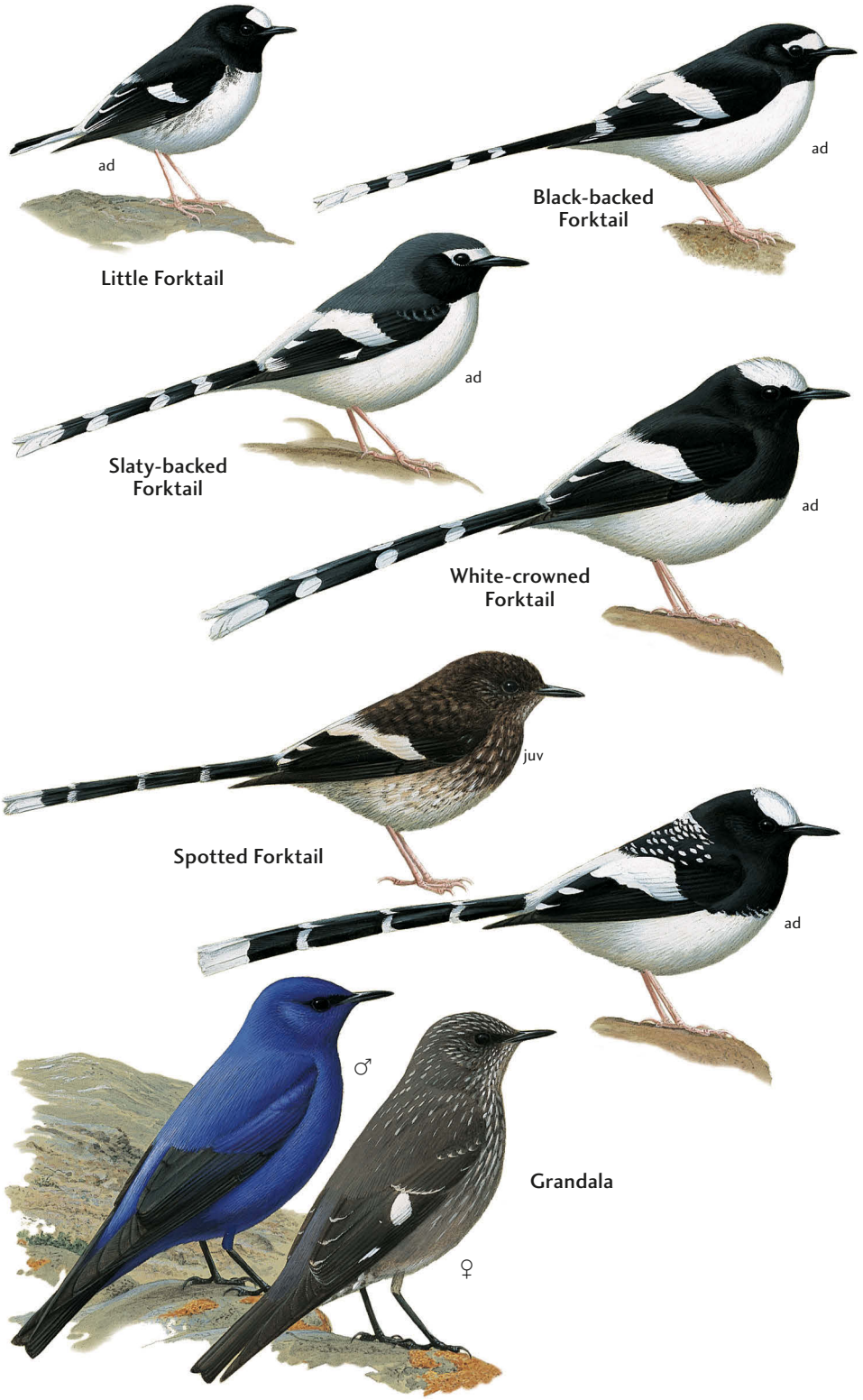
Spotted Forktail *Enicurus maculatus* 27–28 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** From other forktails by combination of large size and very long tail, white spotting on black mantle (forming white collar towards nape), prominent white forehead, and black of throat extending to breast. White-spotted mantle separates it from White-crowned. Juvenile lacks white forehead, and has brownish-black upperparts, paler brownish-black throat and breast with white streaking, brown mottling on upper belly, and brown flanks. *E. m. guttatus* (E Himalayas and NE) differs from nominate (W and C Himalayas) in being smaller, lacking white scaling on black breast, and having fewer and smaller white spots on mantle. **Voice** A shrill, rasping *kreee* or *tseek*; also a creaky *cheek-chik-chi-chi-chik-chik*. **HH** Always keeps close to water. Has characteristic habit of constantly swaying its tail slowly up and down. Very restless, and frequently turns from side to side. Walks daintily over stones at water's edge or hops from stone to stone. Has graceful, undulating flight low over water. Rocky streams in forest and shaded wooded ravines; avoids rivers, lakes and open country.



Grandala *Grandala coelicolor* 23 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** A slim, long-winged, starling-like chat. A strong, streamlined flier, often in large flocks; on the ground, flicks open wings and tail. Adult male is almost entirely purple-blue with glistening sheen, with black lores, wings and tail. Adult female and immature male are dark brown, streaked white, with blue wash to rump and uppertail-coverts, and white patches on wing. Juvenile is similar to female, but is darker brown and more boldly streaked; lacks blue on rump and uppertail-coverts. **Voice** Flight call is a *tew-wee*; song is a repeated *galeb-che-chew-de-dew*. **HH** Flocks circle for long periods high overhead. Rocky slopes and ridges, and stony meadows; alpine zone in summer, lower altitudes in winter.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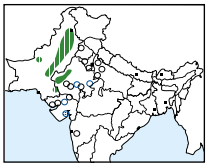
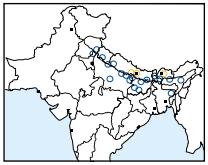
Grandala



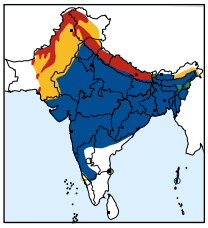
Stoliczka's Bushchat *Saxicola macrorhynchus* 17 cm

Resident. Mainly Rajasthan, India. **ID** Slimmer than other bushchats and with longer tail and longer and slimmer bill. Male has white supercilium, white patch on inner wing coverts, white primary coverts, whitish underparts with buff wash to breast and much white on tail; upperparts and ear-coverts blackish when worn (breeding), streaked when fresh (non-breeding). Female from female Common Stonechat by more prominent supercilium, and broad buffish edges and tips to tail feathers. **Voice** Sharp *chip-chip* call. **HH** Sandy plains with scattered bushes. Globally threatened.



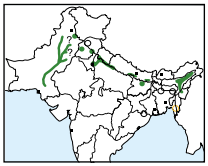
Hodgson's Bushchat *Saxicola insignis* 17 cm

Winter visitor. N Indian plains and Nepal terai. **ID** Larger than Common Stonechat, with bigger-looking head and bill. Male has white throat extending to form almost complete white collar, and more white on wing than Eurasian Stonechat. Female has broad buffish-white wing-bars. **Voice** Has metallic *teck-teck* call. **HH** Tall vegetation along river beds and cane fields. Globally threatened. **AN** White-throated Bushchat.



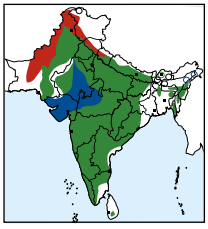
Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquatus* 12.5–13 cm

Breeds W and N Pakistan, Himalayas and NE India; widespread winter visitor. **ID** Male has black head, white patch on neck, orange breast, and whitish rump (features obscured in fresh plumage). Female has streaked upperparts and orange on breast and rump. Tail darker than in female White-tailed. Four rather similar subspecies occur. *S. t. przevalskii* (not illustrated), a winter visitor to N and NE, is perhaps the most distinctive, being larger and having underparts almost entirely deep rufous-orange on both sexes. **Voice** Calls include *hweet* and hard *tsak*. **HH** Summers in open country with bushes, including high-altitude semi-desert; winters in scrub, reedbeds and cultivation.



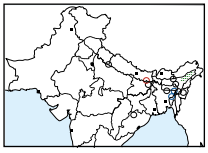
White-tailed Stonechat *Saxicola leucurus* 12.5–13 cm

Resident. N subcontinent, mainly in plains. **ID** Male very similar to Common, but inner webs of all but central tail feathers are largely white; much white in tail in flight. Female has greyer upperparts, with diffuse streaking, and paler grey-brown tail. In S Assam hills, male has darker orange on underparts, less white in tail; female darker and browner on the upperparts (and more heavily streaked), although tail has pale edges. **Voice** Alarm is *peep-chaaa*. **HH** Reeds and tall grassland.



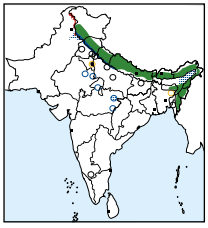
Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata* 12.5–13 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Male is entirely black except for white rump and patch on wing; duller due to rufous fringes to body in non-breeding and first-winter plumages. Female has dark brown upperparts and rufous-brown underparts, with rufous-orange rump. Females in peninsula and Sri Lanka are darker and more prominently streaked than in North. **Voice** Calls include plaintive *chep chep-hee*. **HH** Mainly cultivation and open country with scattered bushes or tall grass.



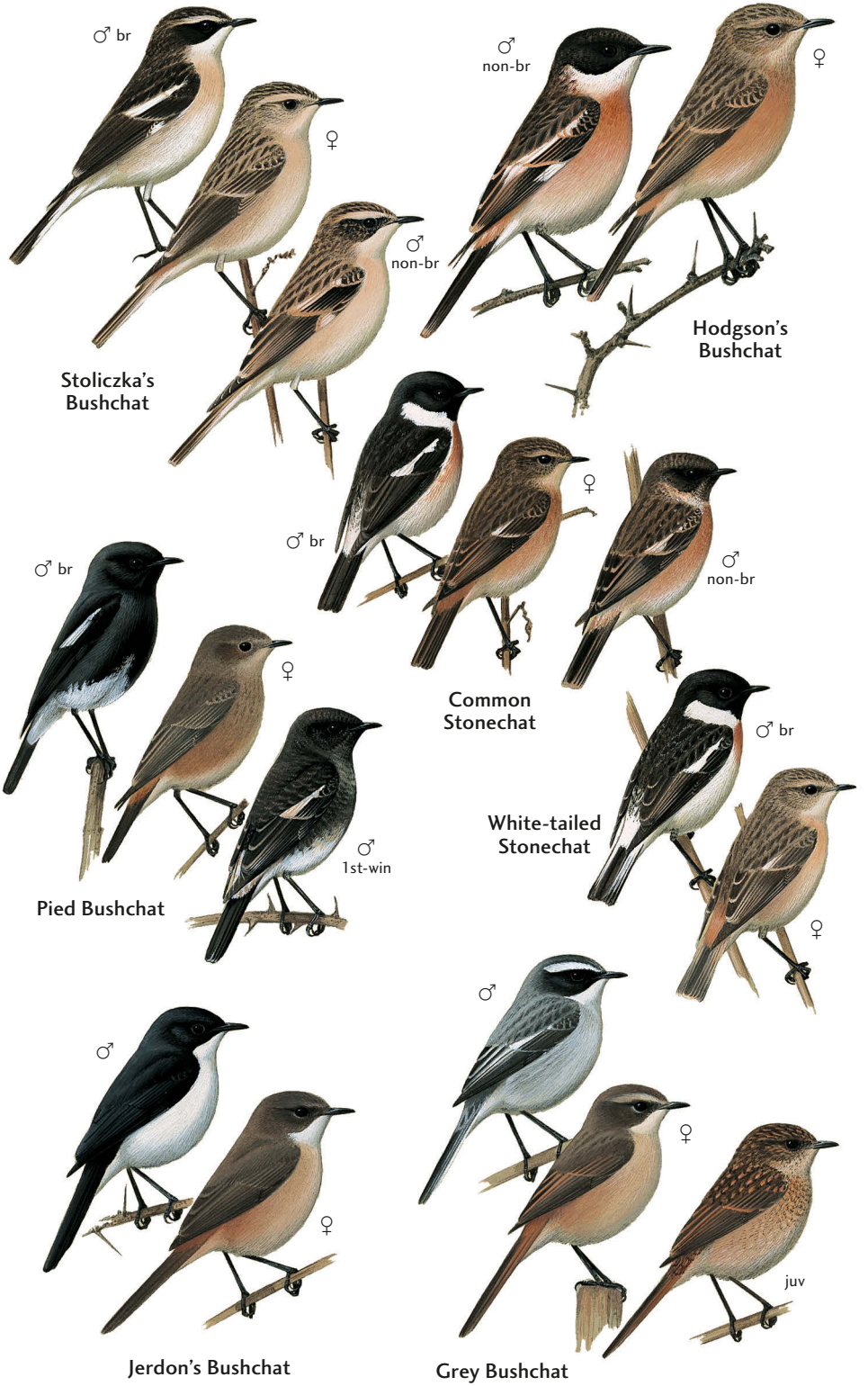
Jerdon's Bushchat *Saxicola jerdoni* 15 cm

Resident. Mainly NE Indian plains and Himalayan foothills. **ID** Male has blackish upperparts, including rump and tail, and white underparts. Female and first-winter male similar to female Grey Bushchat, but lacks prominent supercilium, and has longer, more graduated tail lacking rufous at sides. **Voice** Has plaintive whistle, higher-pitched than other chats. **HH** Tall grassland.



Grey Bushchat *Saxicola ferreus* 15 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas and NE Indian hills; winters south to N Indian plains. **ID** Male has white supercilium and dark mask; upperparts grey to almost black, depending on extent of wear; underparts whitish underparts with grey breast and flanks. Female has buff supercilium contrasting with dark brown ear-coverts, and rufous rump and tail sides. First-winter as fresh plumage adult. **Voice** Calls include *zee-chunk*, and a sharp *tak-tak*. **HH** Bushes and secondary growth.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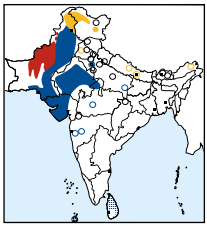
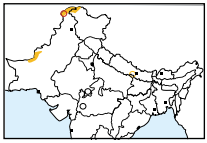


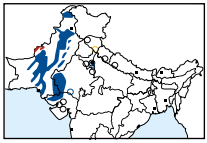
Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina* 16.5 cm

Breeds in Pakistan; winters in Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Rather plain sandy-brown and buff. Head and bill look rather large, and legs long. Tail shorter than that of Desert Wheatear with more white at base and sides. Wings sandy-brown with contrastingly dark alula (lacking black centres to coverts and tertials/secondaries of Northern Wheatear). Sexes similar. **HH** Breeds on stony plateaux and in valleys; winters in sandy semi-desert.



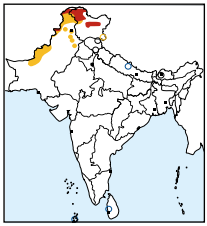
Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* 15 cm

Passage migrant. Mainly Pakistan; vagrant elsewhere. **ID** Breeding male has blue-grey upperparts, black mask, and pale orange breast. Breeding female greyish to olive-brown above; lacks rufous patch on ear-coverts of Finsch's Wheatear and never shows dark grey/black on throat. Shows more white at sides of tail compared with Isabelline. **HH** Open stony ground and cultivation.



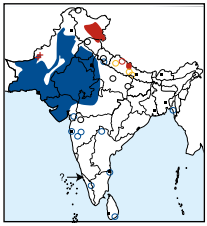
Red-tailed Wheatear *Oenanthe chrysopygia* 14.5 cm

Breeds in Baluchistan; winter visitor to Pakistan and NW India. **ID** In all plumages from other wheatears in region by rufous-orange lower back and rump and rufous sides to tail. Male has greyer crown and mantle and black lores compared with female. **HH** Summers on dry rocky slopes; winters in semi-desert. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Rufous-tailed Wheatear *O. xanthoprymna*.



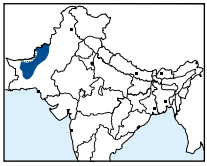
Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka* 14.5 cm

Breeds in N Pakistan and NW India; also passage migrant in Pakistan. **ID** Always shows black edge to outer tail feathers (lacking in Variable Wheatear) and often has only a narrow and broken terminal black band (broad and even on Variable). On breeding male, white of nape extends to mantle, black of throat does not extend to upper breast, and breast is washed with buff (features from *capistrata* race of Variable). Non-breeding and first-winter have pale fringes to upperparts and wings (with white crown, and black of face and throat, of male partly obscured); distinct from Variable which lacks prominent pale fringes to body and wing feathers in fresh plumage. Breeding female not separable from female Variable, except by tail pattern. **HH** Open stony lowlands.



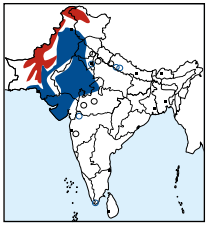
Desert Wheatear *Oenanthe deserti* 14–15 cm

Breeds in NW Himalayas; winter visitor mainly to Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Comparatively small and well-proportioned wheatear, with largely black tail and contrasting white rump. Male has black throat (partly obscured when fresh) and buff mantle. Female has blackish centres to wing-coverts and tertials in fresh plumage and largely black wings when worn (useful distinction from Isabelline). **HH** Breeds on barren plateaux; winters in barren semi-desert.



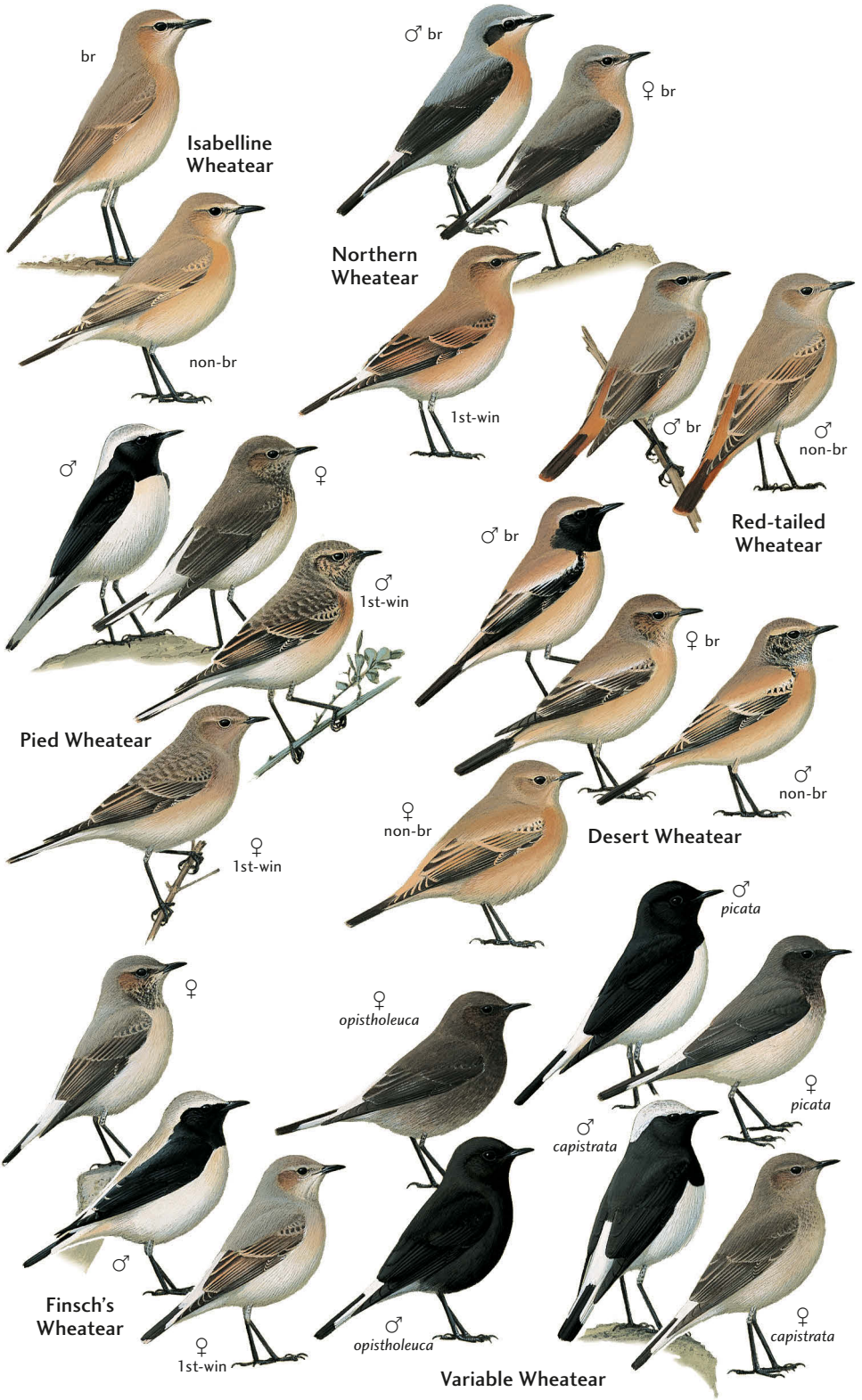
Finsch's Wheatear *Oenanthe finschii* 14 cm

Winter visitor. Baluchistan. **ID** Male has creamy-buff to white mantle (black in Variable and Pied), and appearance changes little with wear. Adult female and 1st-win have warmer rufous ear-coverts and paler grey-brown upperparts than female Variable and Pied, with contrast between mantle and coverts. In fresh plumage in autumn, throat and breast of female are paler than on Variable and Pied; when worn in spring/summer, can be blackish on lower throat. **HH** Dry stony uplands.



Variable Wheatear *Oenanthe picata* 14.5 cm

Breeds in Baluchistan and N Pakistan; winter visitor mainly to Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Very variable. Males can be mainly black (*O. p. opistholeuca*), have black head with white underparts (nominate) (very similar to Hume's – see that species), or white crown and white underparts (*O. p. capistrata*) (very similar to Pied – see that species). Females can be mainly sooty-brown or have greyish upperparts with variable greyish-white underparts. In worn (spring/summer) plumage, many females are not separable from female Pied, but in fresh plumage Variable does not show Pied's prominent pale fringes to mantle/scapulars and wing feathers. **HH** Breeds in barren valleys and low hills; winters in plains, stony desert foothills and cultivation.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Pied Wheatear
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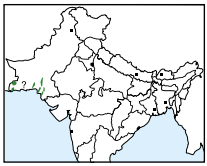
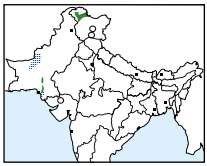
♂ br
♀ br
♂ non-br
♀ non-br
Desert Wheatear
♀
♂
Finsch's Wheatear
♀ 1st-win
♀ opistholeuca
♂ opistholeuca
♂ picata
♀ picata
♂ capistrata
♀ capistrata
Variable Wheatear



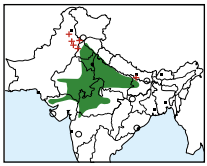
Hooded Wheatear *Oenanthe monacha* 17.5 cm

Resident. Baluchistan and SW Pakistan. **ID** Appears elongated, with long bill and tail, but has relatively short legs (less upright stance than most wheatears). Male has white crown, black throat extending to breast, and largely white outer tail feathers; in winter, buffish or greyish wash to crown and pale fringes to upperparts and wings (1st-win male has tail as female). Female has sandy to rufous-buff rump and tail, with brown central tail feathers, and rather plain-faced appearance. **HH** Barren desert.



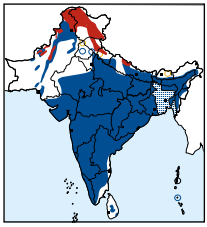
Hume's Wheatear *Oenanthe albonigra* 17 cm

Resident. Mainly Pakistan; vagrant to India. **ID** From *picata* race of Variable by stockier appearance and domed head, larger bill, longer primary projection, glossy sheen to black of plumage (except when worn); black of throat does not extend so far down breast and white of rump extends further up back. Sexes alike. 1st-win is similar to adult, but plumage duller and browner (lacking any sheen) and has buff tips/fringes to wing-coverts. **HH** Barren stony slopes with boulders.



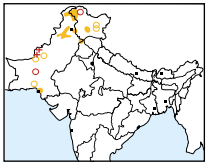
Brown Rock Chat *Cercomela fusca* 17 cm

Resident. Mainly Pakistan and N India. **ID** Both sexes brown, with more rufescent underparts and blackish tail. Tail is frequently (slowly) cocked and spread, and body frequently bobbed. Juvenile is darker brown, without rufous coloration. **HH** Rocky hills, cliffs and old buildings.



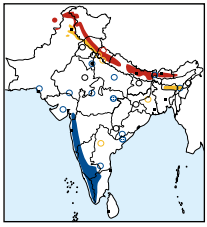
Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* 20 cm

Resident and winter visitor. Breeds in Baluchistan and Himalayas; widespread in winter. **ID** Male indigo-blue, obscured by pale fringes in non-breeding and especially first-winter plumages. Female has bluish cast to slaty-brown upperparts, and buff scaling on underparts. Vagrant *philippensis* has rufous breast and belly; birds in NE show a variable amount of red on vent, and are presumably intergrades. **Voice** Short and repetitive song with fluty phrases, often with long pauses. **HH** Breeds on open rocky slopes; winters in dry rocky areas.



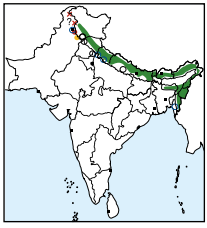
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis* 20 cm

Breeds Baluchistan; passage migrant Pakistan and Ladakh. **ID** The only rock thrush with orange-red uppertail-coverts and tail. Male has bluish head/mantle, white back and orange underparts, obscured by pale fringes in non-breeding/1st-win. Female has grey-brown upperparts, finely spotted white and barred black (more uniform in worn plumage); underparts orange-washed and boldly scaled brown. **Voice** Song softer, more flowing than Blue Rock. **HH** Open rocky hillsides.



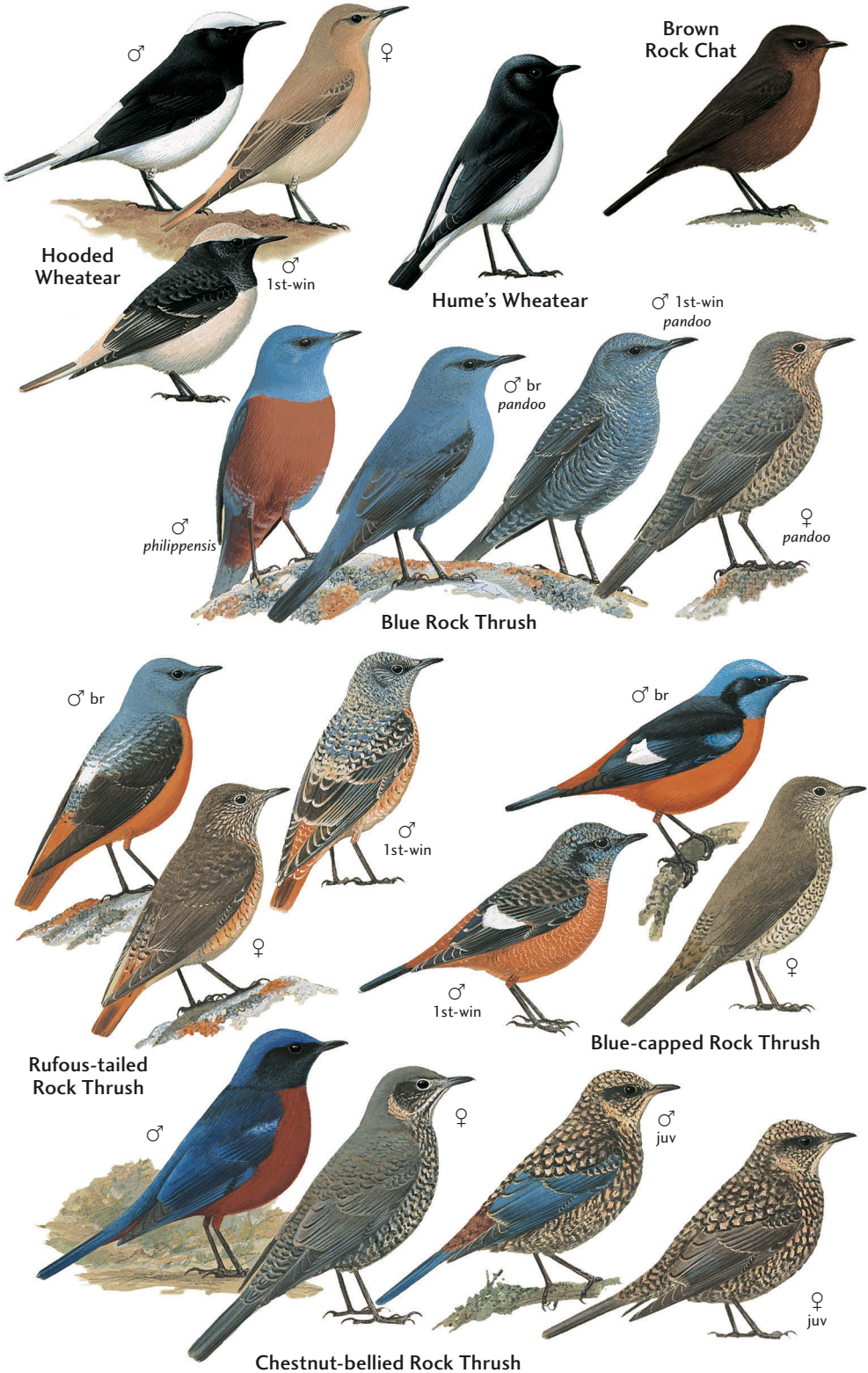
Blue-capped Rock Thrush *Monticola cinclorhynchus* 17 cm

Summer visitor to Himalayas; winters mainly in Western Ghats. **ID** Male has white wing patch and blue-black tail; also blue crown and throat and orange rump and underparts; patterning and coloration obscured by pale fringes in non-breeding and first-winter plumages. Female has olive-brown upperparts, with barred rump, and whitish underparts which are boldly scaled and barred with brown; lacks buff neck patch of Chestnut-bellied, blue cast to upperparts of Blue, and orange-red tail of Rufous-tailed. **Voice** Short and fluty undulating song. **HH** Summers in open dry forest; winters in moist forest and well-wooded areas.



Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush *Monticola rufiventris* 23 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Male has chestnut-red underparts and blue upperparts including rump, uppertail-coverts and tail; lacks white on wing. Female has orange-buff lores and neck patch, dark malar stripe, dark barring on slaty olive-brown upperparts, and heavy scaling on underparts. Non-breeding and first-winter male are very similar to breeding male but have fine buff fringes to mantle, scapulars and throat. Juvenile has pale spotting on upperparts; male with blue on wing. **Voice** Undulating and fluty song, more subdued and softer than Blue-capped. **HH** Open forest on rocky slopes.


♂
♀
Hooded Wheatear
♂ 1st-win
Hume's Wheatear
Brown Rock Chat
♂ 1st-win pandoo
♂ br pandoo
♂ philippensis
♀ pandoo
Blue Rock Thrush
♂ br
♂ 1st-win
♀
♂ br
♂ 1st-win
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Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush
Blue-capped Rock Thrush
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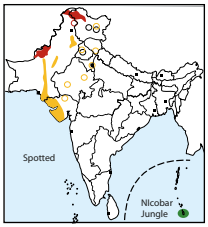
Chestnut-bellied Rock Thrush

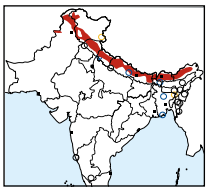


Nicobar Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias nicobaricus* 15 cm

Winter visitor/resident on Nicobars; vagrant to Andamans. **ID** Large, mainly brown flycatcher with rufescent-brown tail. Has long bill (with yellowish lower mandible), large eye with orange-buff eye-ring, whitish throat, mottled brownish breast, and pale pinkish legs. **HH** Mainly forest. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher *R. brunneatus*.

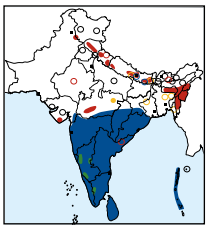
Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* 15 cm

Summer visitor to Baluchistan and Himalayas in Pakistan; passage migrant in Pakistan and NW India. **ID** From Dark-sided Flycatcher by larger size, longer bill, paler grey-brown upperparts, faint dark streaking on forehead and crown, indistinct eye-ring, and diffuse grey-brown streaking on throat and breast. Juvenile has buffish-white spotting on upperparts and dark scaling on underparts. **Voice** Thin, scratchy calls. **HH** Breeds in juniper forest, open pine forest.



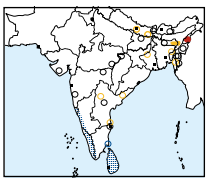
Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* 14 cm

Breeds in Himalayas and NE India; winter quarters poorly known. **ID** From Asian Brown Flycatcher by small dark bill, and longer primary projection (exposed primaries are equal to or distinctly longer than the tertials). Also darker sooty-brown upperparts, and breast and flanks more heavily marked, with white crescent on neck sides and narrow white line down centre of belly. Juvenile has finely streaked upperparts, heavy dark mottling on breast and flanks, and orange-buff wing-bar. **Voice** Thin, high-pitched, repetitive phrases. **HH** Temperate and subalpine forest.



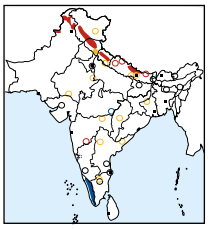
Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* 13 cm

Breeds in Himalayan foothills and hills of C and W India; winters in S, C and E India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Grey-brown with short tail, large head, and huge eye with prominent eye-ring. From Dark-sided by larger bill with more extensive orange base to lower mandible, shorter primary projection, and paler underparts (with light grey-brown wash to breast and flanks). Juvenile has prominent buffish spotting on upperparts, whitish underparts with fine dark scaling on breast, and creamy-white wing-bar. **Voice** Song comprises short trills interspersed with two- or three-note whistling phrases. Call is a weak trilling *sit-it-it-it*. **HH** Open subtropical broadleaved forest, plantations, groves and wooded areas.



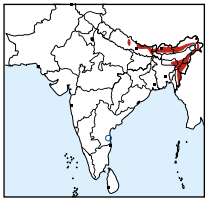
Brown-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa muttui* 14 cm

Breeds in NE India; winters in SW India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Compared with Asian Brown has larger bill with entirely pale lower mandible, pale legs and feet, rufous-buff edges to greater coverts and tertials, rufescent tone to rump and tail, more pronounced brown or grey-brown breast-band, and warmer brownish-buff flanks. Juvenile streaked with rufous-buff on upperparts and breast. **Voice** A pleasant, feeble song; call a thin *sit*. **HH** Dense thickets in broadleaved evergreen forest, also along forest river banks in Sri Lanka.



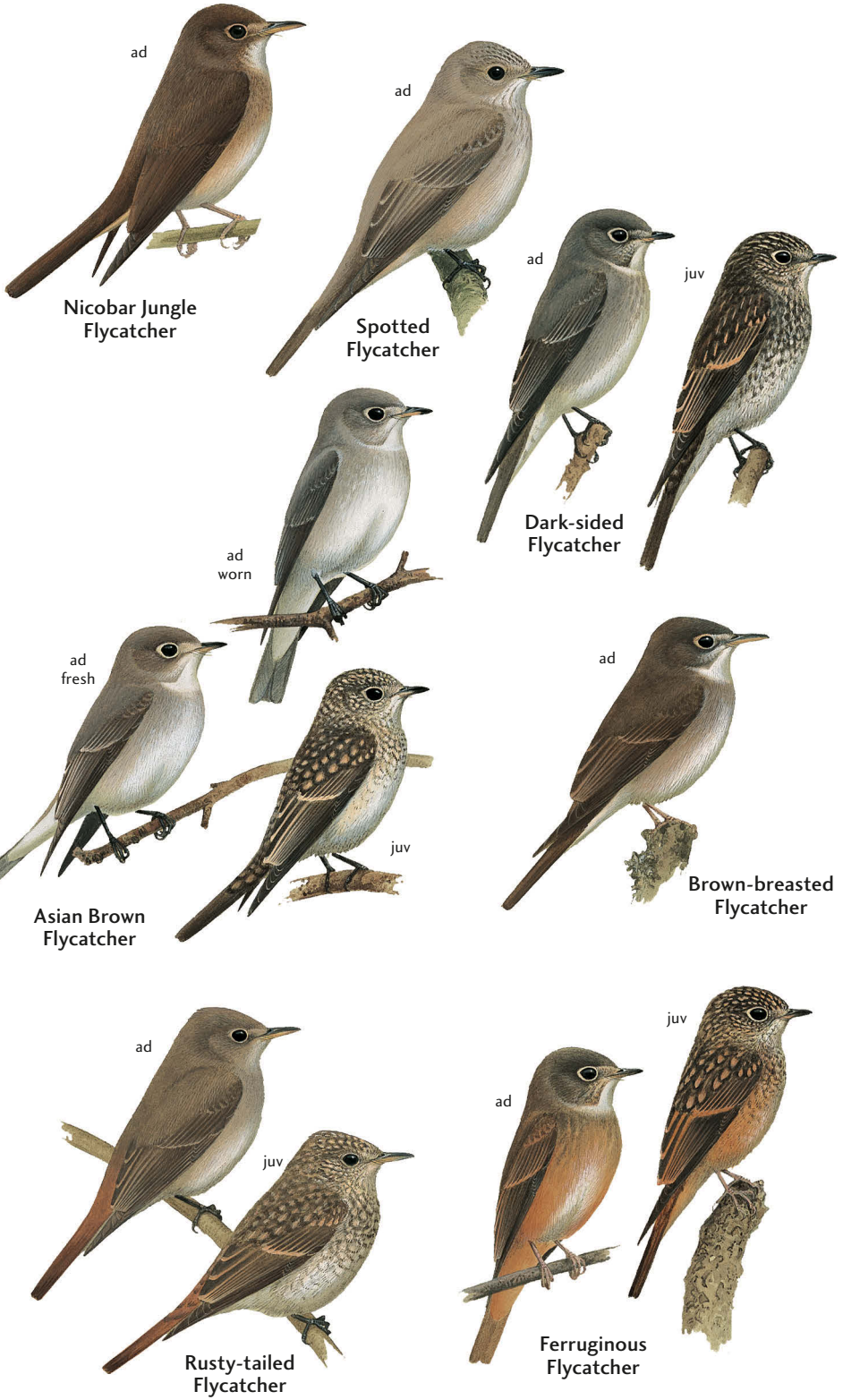
Rusty-tailed Flycatcher *Muscicapa ruficauda* 14 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; winters mainly in SW India. **ID** Has rufous uppertail-coverts and tail, resulting in (female) redstart-like appearance. Larger than Asian Brown, with flatter forehead, and crown feathers are often slightly raised, giving crested appearance to nape. Further, has a rather plain face, with only a faint supercilium (back to eye) and indistinct eye-ring, and has entirely orange lower mandible and cutting edges to upper mandible. Juvenile has buff spotting on upperparts and dark scaling on underparts. **Voice** Song is comparatively loud and melodious compared to closely related species, comprising a drawn-out, rising and falling mournful whistle followed by a rapid warbling. Calls include a bullfinch-like *peu-peu* and a short, deep churring. **HH** Breeds in mixed coniferous-broadleaved forest; winters in evergreen broadleaved forest.



Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* 13 cm

Probably summer visitor. Breeds in E Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Compact, with large head, large eye and prominent white eye-ring. Adult has blue-grey cast to head (with darker malar stripe), rufous-brown mantle, rufous-orange rump and tail sides, rufous-orange underparts, and prominent rufous fringes to greater coverts and tertials. Juvenile has orange-buff spotting on upperparts, rufous-orange greater-covert wing-bar, and dark scaling on breast. **Voice** Call is a quiet accentor-like trill. Probable song comprises very high-pitched notes introduced by sharper, shriller notes. **HH** Humid broadleaved forest, especially of oaks, also firs (Himalayas); dense mixed jungle (Assam).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Nicobar Jungle Flycatcher
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Spotted Flycatcher
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Asian Brown Flycatcher
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Rusty-tailed Flycatcher
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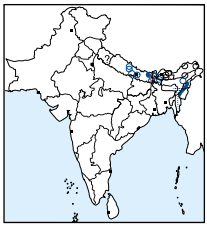
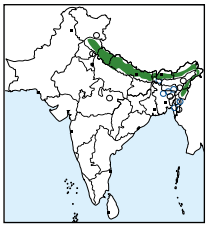
Ferruginous Flycatcher



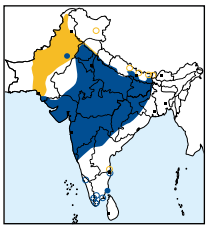
Slaty-backed Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsonii* 13 cm

Winter visitor. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Small, long-tailed flycatcher with very short bill. Male has deep blue upperparts (blacker on face) and bright orange underparts (becoming whiter on belly), and has black tail with white patches at base. Lacks any glistening blue in plumage. Female is rather nondescript, with olive-brown upperparts and greyish-olive underparts, with poorly defined whitish throat, lores and eye-ring. Juvenile has buff spotting on upperparts and dark scaling on buff underparts, with whitish throat. First-year male resembles female, and breeds in this plumage. **Voice** Short and abrupt flute-like song of whistled notes. **HH** Winters in damp, broadleaved forest, shrubberies and bamboo.



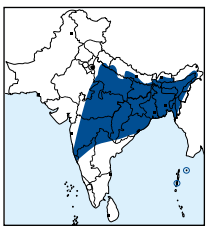
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher *Ficedula strophiata* 14 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Male has dark olive-brown upperparts, blackish face and throat, prominent white forehead and eyebrow, small rufous patch in centre of grey breast (can be difficult to see), and large white patches at sides of tail. Female is similar, but has less distinct eyebrow, duller and less distinct rufous 'gorget', and paler grey face and throat. Juvenile has tail pattern as adult, but otherwise has dark brown upperparts spotted with orange-buff, and orange-buff throat and breast and whiter belly and flanks all scaled with dark brown. **Voice** Song is a thin *zreet-creet-creet-chirt-chirt* calls include a *pee-tweet*, a metallic *pink* and a harsh *trrt*, deeper than similar call of Red-breasted Flycatcher. **HH** Dense or open forest and forest clearings.



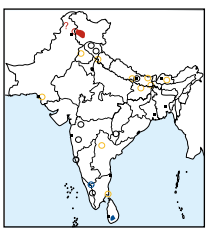
Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* 11.5–12.5 cm

Widespread winter visitor and passage migrant. **ID** Has white sides to long blackish tail, which is frequently cocked; bill has distinctly paler base to lower mandible. Male has red throat and upper breast, and creamy-white rest of underparts. Many males are without red throat until second or third year, and resemble females. Female lacks grey cast to crown and face of male, and underparts are creamy-white, suffused with buff on breast. First-winter has orange-buff greater-covert wing-bar. **Voice** Calls include a *tic* which is unlike the usual call of Taiga Flycatcher, also a quiet, dry *trrt, trrt.* **HH** Open forest, scrub at cultivation edges, orchards and roadside trees. **AN** Red-throated Flycatcher.



Taiga Flycatcher *Ficedula albicilla* 11–12 cm

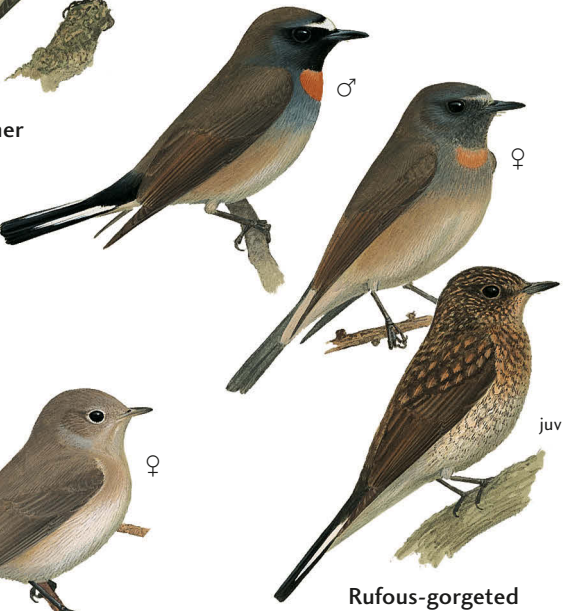
Winter visitor, mainly to NE, C and E subcontinent. **ID** Very similar to Red-breasted. Male has orange restricted to throat which is bordered below by grey breast-band; female and first-winter have colder grey-brown upperparts than Red-breasted, with pronounced black uppertail-coverts (browner in Red-breasted), and underparts are whiter with grey across breast. Bill is mainly dark. **Voice** Calls include a buzzing *drrrrrrt*, unlike Red-breasted. **HH** Open forest, plantations, and scrub at cultivation edges. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Red-breasted Flycatcher *F. parva*, under the name Red-throated Flycatcher.



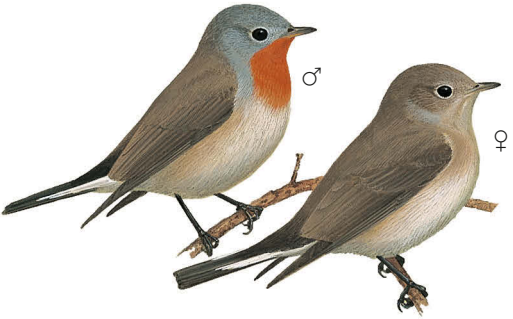
Kashmir Flycatcher *Ficedula subrubra* 13 cm

Resident. Breeds in NW Himalayas; winters in Sri Lanka and Western Ghats. **ID** Very similar to Red-breasted and Taiga Flycatchers, with white-sided black tail that is frequently cocked. Male has deep rufous underparts (extending to lower breast and flanks), diffuse black border to throat and breast, and darker grey-brown upperparts. Female and first-winter male are variable, but usually with some mottled rufous-orange on throat and breast, and with pronounced grey sides to neck and breast. Can resemble male Red-breasted, but rufous coloration on throat and breast is often more pronounced on breast than on throat, and often continues as a wash onto belly and/or flanks; upperparts are also a slightly darker grey-brown. First-winter female lacks 'orange' on underparts. Darker grey-brown upperparts and grey wash to sides of neck and across breast are best distinctions from female Red-breasted; pale base to bill helps separate it from Taiga. Juvenile has tail pattern as adult, but otherwise has dark brown upperparts spotted with buff, and buffish underparts scaled with dark brown. **Voice** Calls include a staccato rolled twitter, also a sharp *chack* and a rattling *purr.* **HH** Breeds in deciduous forest; winters in forest edges, tea estates and gardens. Globally threatened.

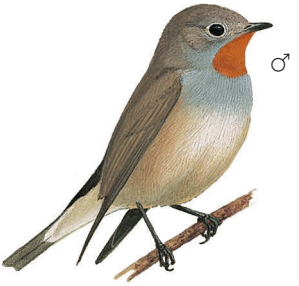
Slaty-backed Flycatcher



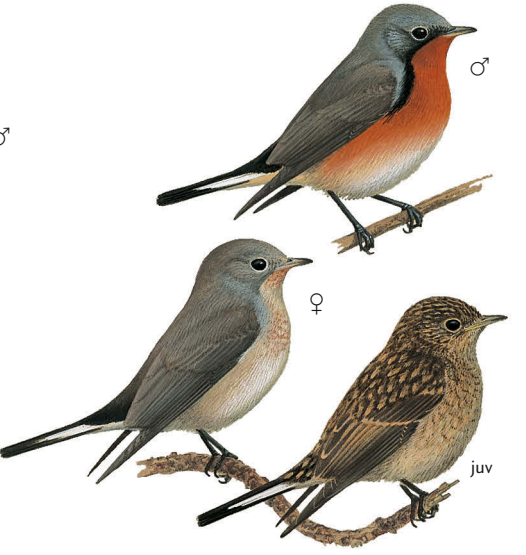
Rufous-gorgeted Flycatcher



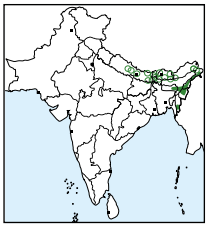
Red-breasted Flycatcher



Taiga Flycatcher

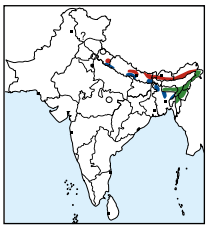


Kashmir Flycatcher



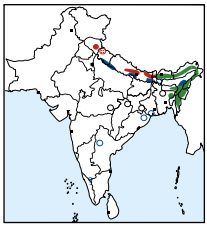
White-gorgeted Flycatcher *Anthipes monileger* 13 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Compact with large domed head and large bill; typically found close to the ground. Adult is mainly olive-brown, but has large white throat patch enclosed by black gorget. Juvenile lacks black-bordered white throat of adult; has dark brown upperparts streaked with warm buff, buff tips to greater coverts, and buffish underparts diffusely streaked with dark brown. Has pinkish legs and feet in all plumages. Nominate (E Himalayas) has an orange-buff supercilium, which is white in *A. m. leucops* (E and S of Brahmaputra). **Voice** Utters a thin high-pitched whistling song. **HH** Undergrowth in moist broadleaved forest, thick bushes and bamboo. **TN** Formerly placed in *Ficedula*.



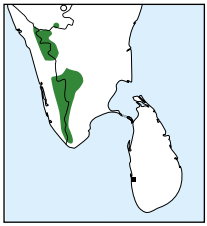
Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Small, compact, short-tailed flycatcher, with large head, typically found close to the ground. Male has short, broad white supercilium, dark slaty-blue upperparts with rufous-brown wings, rufous-orange throat and breast, dusky flanks, and white patches at base of tail (which can be difficult to see). Female from other small flycatchers by combination of small size and compact shape, dark olive-brown upperparts, orange-buff supercilium and eye-ring, and faint rufous panel on wing; underparts are variable, some having orange-buff on throat and breast, others having orange-buff pectoral band. Some females have white supercilium. Has pinkish legs and feet. Juvenile has orange-buff streaking on upperparts, orange-buff greater-covert wing-bar, and diffuse dark streaking on dull orange-buff underparts. Juvenile male has slate-blue tail. **Voice** Has a quiet, high-pitched wheezy song. **HH** Humid broadleaved forest with dense undergrowth favours bamboo and ravines.



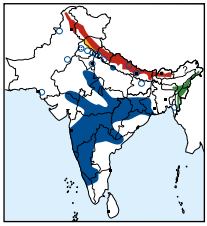
Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Small, compact, bull-headed flycatcher, with small dark bill. Arboreal habits. Male is striking, with mainly black upperparts and white underparts, long and broad white supercilium, white patch on wing, and white sides to base of tail. Female has brownish-grey upperparts (tinged with warm brown on forehead, lores and around eye), and whitish underparts with brownish-grey wash to breast and flanks. Juvenile has buff spotting on upperparts and tips to coverts, and whitish underparts with dark scaling on breast; wings and tail as adult. **Voice** Song is series of thin, high-pitched notes followed by a rattle. **HH** Breeds in broadleaved deciduous and evergreen forest; winters also in open wooded country, orchards, trees around cultivation and reedbeds.



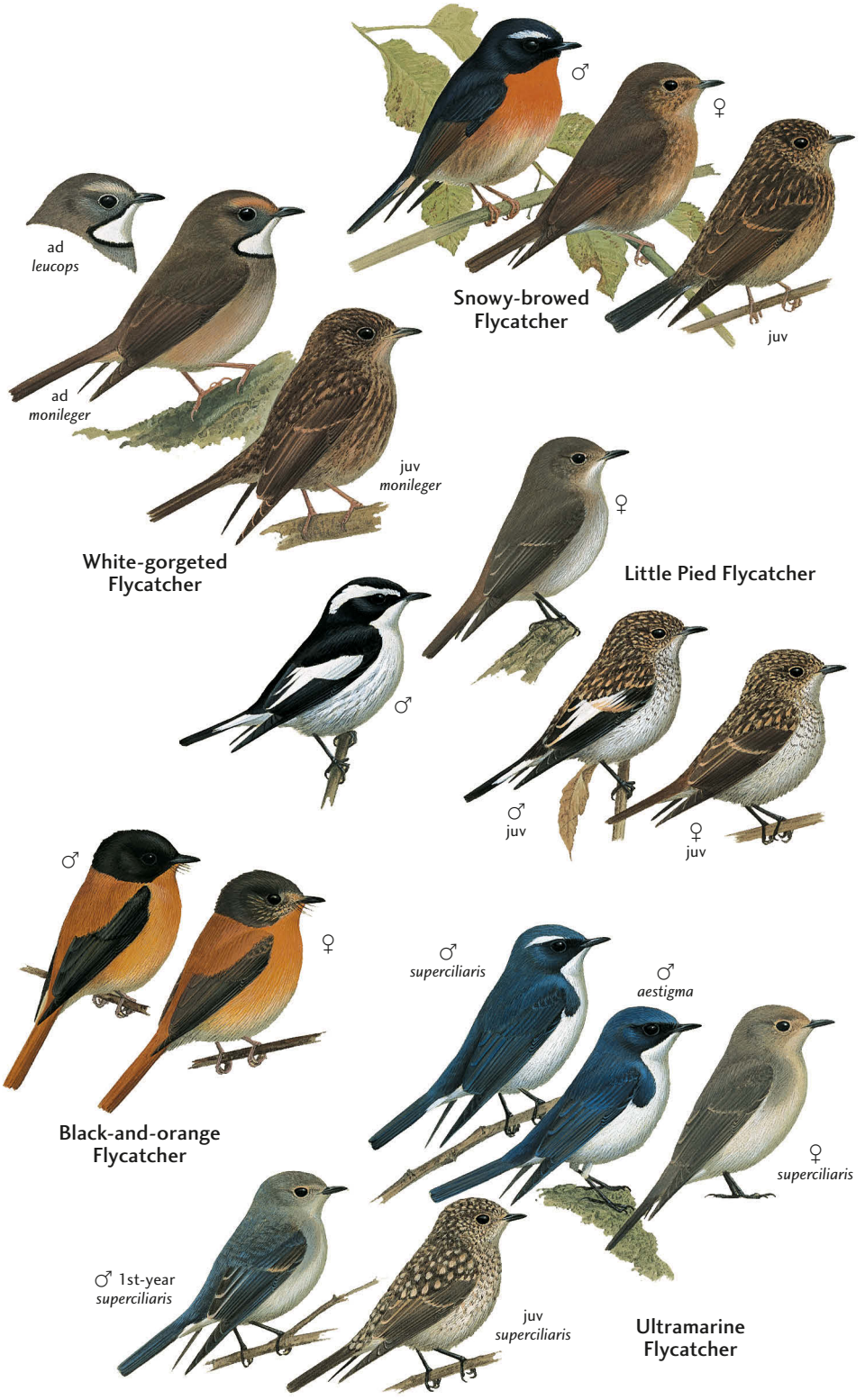
Black-and-orange Flycatcher *Ficedula nigrorufa* 11 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** Small, compact flycatcher. Male is almost entirely rufous-orange, with black hood and wings. Female is similar, but has dark olive-brown hood, orange-buff lores, and brownish-black wings. Juvenile has wings and tail as adult, but rest of plumage is dark brown, speckled with light brownish. **Voice** Utters high-pitched, metallic, insect-like song. **HH** Evergreen sholas with dense undergrowth and plenty of leaf litter, cardamom and coffee plantations and moist thickets in ravines.



Ultramarine Flycatcher *Ficedula superciliaris* 12 cm

Summer visitor to Himalayas and resident in NE India; winters south to S India. **ID** Small, compact, arboreal flycatcher with small bill. Male has deep blue upperparts and sides of neck/breast, and white underparts. Female has greyish-brown upperparts and whitish underparts, with greyish patches on sides of breast (mirroring patterning of male); some have blue cast to uppertail-coverts and tail. Coloration of rump/uppertail-coverts and well-defined grey patches on breast sides help separate from female Little Pied. First-year male resembles female, but with blue cast to mantle, wings and tail. Juvenile has buffish-white spotting on upperparts, and dark scaling on whitish underparts; juvenile male has blue tail and blue edges to flight feathers. Male nominate (W Himalayas) has white supercilium and white patches at base of tail, which are typically lacking in E populations (*F. s. aestigma*). **Voice** Has feeble, disjointed, high-pitched song. **HH** Breeds in temperate broadleaved or pine forest; winters in open deciduous woodland, groves, gardens and orchards.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Snowy-browed Flycatcher
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Little Pied Flycatcher
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Black-and-orange Flycatcher
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superciliaris
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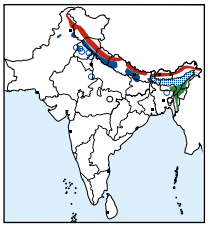
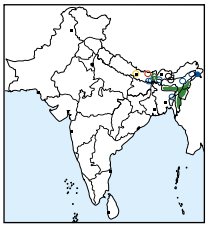
Ultramarine Flycatcher



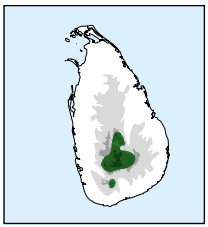
Slaty-blue Flycatcher *Ficedula tricolor* 13 cm

Summer visitor to Himalayas and resident in NE India. **ID** Small, slim, long-tailed flycatcher which typically feeds close to (or on) the ground, with tail cocked. Male has dark blue upperparts with brighter blue forehead, blue-black sides of head and breast contrasting with white (or orange-buff) throat, and blue-black tail with white patches at base. Female has warm brown upperparts, and rufous uppertail-coverts and tail. First-year male as female. Juvenile has warm buff streaking on upperparts and dark scaling on buff underparts; tail as female's. Male *F. t. tricolor* (W and C Himalayas) has greyish-white belly and flanks; female has well-defined whitish throat contrasting with brownish-buff breast and flanks, Male *F. t. cerviniventris* (NE hill states) has orange-buff throat and wash to underparts; underparts of female *cerviniventris*, including throat, are entirely warm orange-buff. Birds in E Himalayas show intermediate characters. **Voice** Song comprises three or four high-pitched whistles. **HH** Breeds in subalpine shrubberies, forest edges and forest undergrowth; winters in forest undergrowth, dense bush-covered ravines, reedbeds, and tall grass.



Sapphire Flycatcher *Ficedula sapphira* 11 cm

Resident. E Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Breeding male has bright blue upperparts and sides of breast (with glistening blue crown and rump), orange throat and centre to breast, and white belly and undertail-coverts. Non-breeding and immature male have brown head and mantle, and brownish sides of breast. Female has olive-brown upperparts, orange throat and breast, and rufous rump and tail. Small size, slim appearance and tiny bill help separate female from female *Cyornis* flycatchers. Juvenile has orange-buff spotting on brown upperparts, and dark-scaled orange-buff breast which contrasts with white belly and flanks (latter with fine barring); wings and tail similar to adult. **Voice** Calls comprise low *tit-it-it* rattle and dry rattled call *trrrt*. **HH** Moist evergreen broadleaved forest.

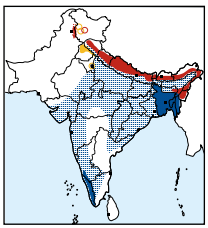


Dull-blue Flycatcher *Eumyias sordidus* 15 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** The only all-'blue' flycatcher occurring in Sri Lanka. Adult is dull ashy-blue, with greyish-white belly, flanks and vent. Has black lores and chin, bordered by cobalt-blue (especially on forehead). Sexes are similar, although female is slightly duller. Juvenile has buff spotting on brown upperparts, and black scaling on buffish throat and breast with; wings and tail are as adult, with buff tips to coverts. **Voice** Has sweet, mournful song of 6–8 notes. **HH** Edges of forest and well-wooded areas.

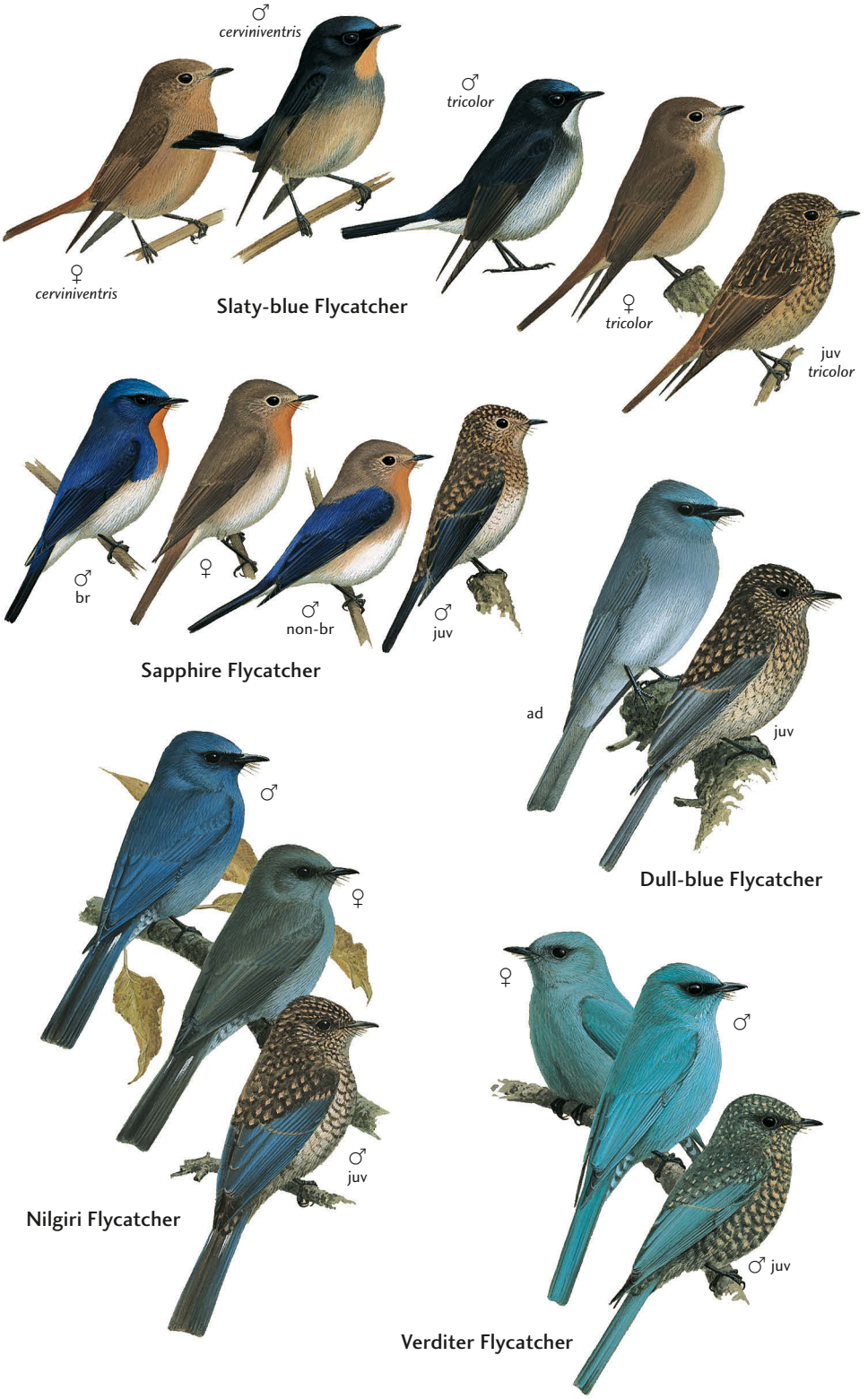
Nilgiri Flycatcher *Eumyias albicaudatus* 15 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. ID Male is almost entirely dark indigo-blue, with brighter blue forehead and supercilium and black lores. From male White-bellied by blue-grey belly and flanks, diffuse whitish fringes to blue-grey undertail-coverts, and white at base of tail (although this can be difficult to see). Darker and bluer coloration and white in tail are best features for separation from Verditer. Female is distinctive, with dusky blue-grey upperparts and paler underparts, white fringes to undertail-coverts, and white at base of tail. Coloration of upperparts and underparts and white in tail help separate from female Verditer. Juvenile has buff spotting on brown upperparts, and white underparts with black scaling; wings and tail are as adult, with buff tips to coverts. **Voice** Song is hesitant melancholy warble of 8–12 notes, slower than Verditer. **HH** Evergreen biotope in hills, thick vegetation near streams, forest edges and clearings and sholas.



Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus* 16 cm

Summer visitor to Himalayas and NE India; widespread in winter. **ID** Male is entirely greenish-blue, with brighter forehead and throat, and black lores. Not really confusable with any other flycatcher. Female is similar, but duller and greyer, and has dusky lores. Female confusable with male (but not female) Pale Blue Flycatcher, but has shorter bill, turquoise-blue upperparts, and uniform greyish turquoise-blue underparts (lacking contrast between breast and belly). See Nilgiri Flycatcher. Juvenile has turquoise cast to grey-brown upperparts, with fine orange-buff spotting, and bold orange-buff spotting on brown underparts; wings and tail are as adult, with buff tips to coverts. **Voice** Song comprises series of rapid, undulating, strident notes, gradually ascending the scale. **HH** Open forest, forest clearings and edges, tall trees in open areas, groves, and gardens.


♂ cerviniventris
♀ cerviniventris
Slaty-blue Flycatcher
♂ tricolor
♀ tricolor
juv tricolor
♂ br
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♂ non-br
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Sapphire Flycatcher
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Dull-blue Flycatcher
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♂ juv
Nilgiri Flycatcher
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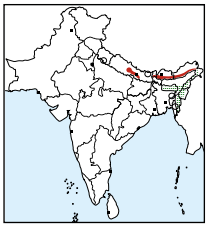
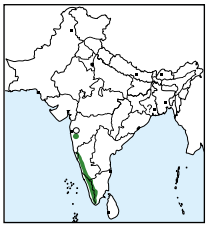
♂
♂ juv
Verditer Flycatcher



Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* 18 cm

Summer visitor to Himalayas and resident in NE India. **ID** Male from Verditer by longer bill and pale blue coloration (lacking greenish cast), with distinctly greyer belly. Has shining blue forecrown and dusky lores. Female is very different from Verditer. Best told by a combination of large size, brownish-grey upperparts, uniform greyish underparts (lacking paler throat, with greyish-white centre of belly and dark buff undertail-coverts) and rufous-brown uppertail-coverts and tail. Juvenile has bold orange-buff spotting on scapulars and heavily scaled underparts; wings and tail are as adult, with buff tips to coverts. **Voice** Rich, melodious thrush-like song, unlike other *Cyornis*. **HH** Moist, dense broadleaved forest and bamboo.



White-bellied Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis pallipes* 15 cm

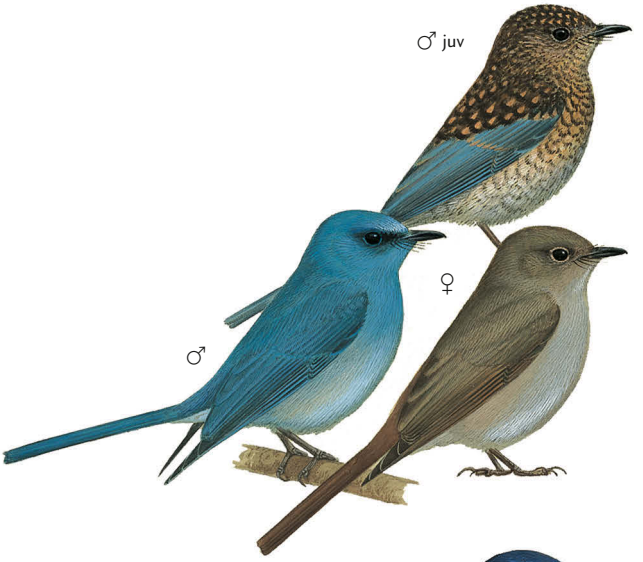
Resident. Western Ghats and W Tamil Nadu hills. **ID** Has striking habit of lifting and fanning tail. Male from male Nilgiri by larger and longer bill, dark indigo-blue coloration, white belly and undertail-coverts (latter lacking blue-grey scaling), and absence of white at base of tail. Female is similar to female Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher but has striking orange-red throat and breast (with cream chin), strong grey cast to head, more extensive cream on lores and forehead, brighter chestnut tail, and is larger with longer bill. Juvenile has unmarked buff throat and white belly (juvenile female with chestnut tail). **Voice** Lengthy, faltering unmelodious song. **HH** Undergrowth in dense broadleaved evergreen forest and thick hillside vegetation.

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas* 14 cm

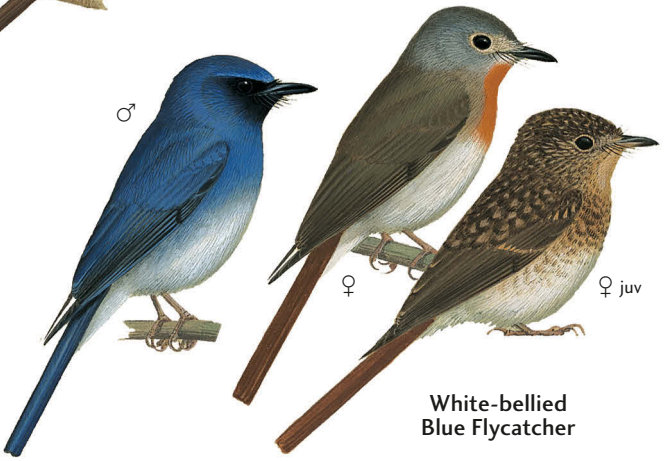
Winter visitor (resident?) in NE India. **ID** Similar in size and structure to Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Male from male Tickell's by deeper blue upperparts but is otherwise very similar. From Blue-throated by orange throat. Female from female Tickell's by brownish coloration to head and upperparts (including wings and tail). From female Blue-throated by orange of breast extending onto flanks. See Large Blue for differences from that species. **Voice** Song resembles Tickell's, but descends overall. **HH** Dense, moist broadleaved forest.

Large Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis magnirostris* 15 cm

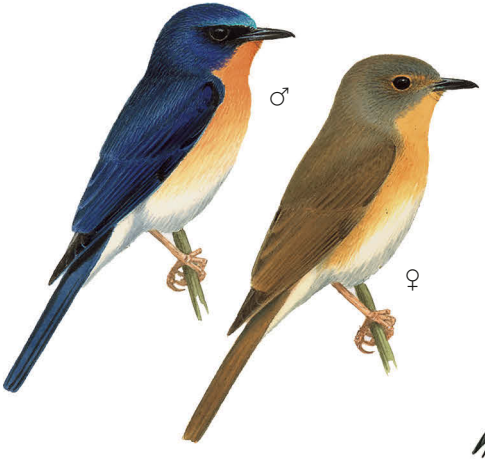
Summer visitor to E Himalayas. **ID** From Tickell's and Hill by larger size, longer bill (with prominent hooked tip) and longer primary projection. Upperparts of male are deeper blue than Tickell's. Throat shows paler contrast with breast, and undertail-coverts creamy (throat concolorous with breast, and undertail-coverts white, in Hill). Female from female Blue-throated and Hill by combination of larger size and bill, sharper demarcation between ear-coverts and creamy throat, with throat paler than breast, and creamy undertail-coverts. **Voice** Unknown in region. **HH** Presumably inhabits evergreen hill forest. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Hill Blue Flycatcher *C. banyumas*.



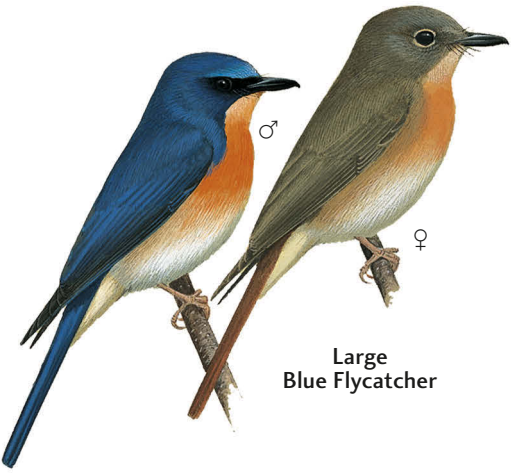
Pale Blue Flycatcher



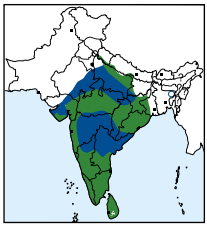
White-bellied
Blue Flycatcher



Hill
Blue Flycatcher

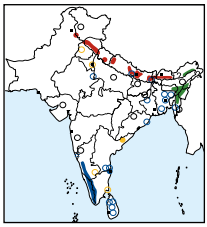


Large
Blue Flycatcher



Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae* 14 cm

Resident. Nepal, peninsular India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Male from Blue-throated by orange throat. Female has blue-grey cast to upperparts (especially rump and tail), orange breast, and white belly and flanks. See Pale-chinned Flycatcher for account of '*vernayi*'. **Voice** Song is short, metallic trill, the first half descending and the second half ascending. **HH** Frequents drier habitats than Blue-throated; open dry forest and wooded areas.

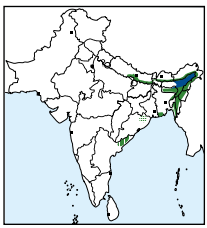


Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rubeculoides* 14 cm

Summer visitor to Himalayas and resident in NE India; winters in E Himalayan foothills and south to Bangladesh, SW India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Male has blue throat (some with orange wedge) and well-defined white belly and flanks. Female has narrow and poorly defined creamy-orange throat, and orange breast well demarcated from white belly (compare with Pale-chinned and female Hill). Olive-brown head and upperparts and rufescent tail are best features from female Tickell's. **Voice** Short, sweet song, recalls Tickell's but more rapid and higher-pitched. **HH** Open forest and wooded areas.

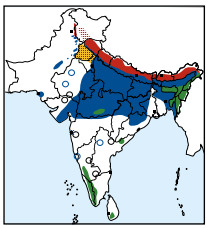
White-tailed Flycatcher *Cyornis concretus* 18 cm

Resident. Breeds in E Arunachal Pradesh, E Meghalaya and Mizoram. **ID** Flycatcher shape, shorter tail, and short pale legs help separate from White-tailed Robin. Large size, with prominent white in tail (exposed when tail is quickly flicked open). Male is mainly slaty-blue (with brighter blue forehead), with white belly and undertail-coverts. Female has white patch on lower throat; blue cast to crown and white in tail are best features from female Rufous-bellied Niltava. **Voice** Song comprises variable piercing, sibilant whistles. **HH** Dense forest, often close to streams.



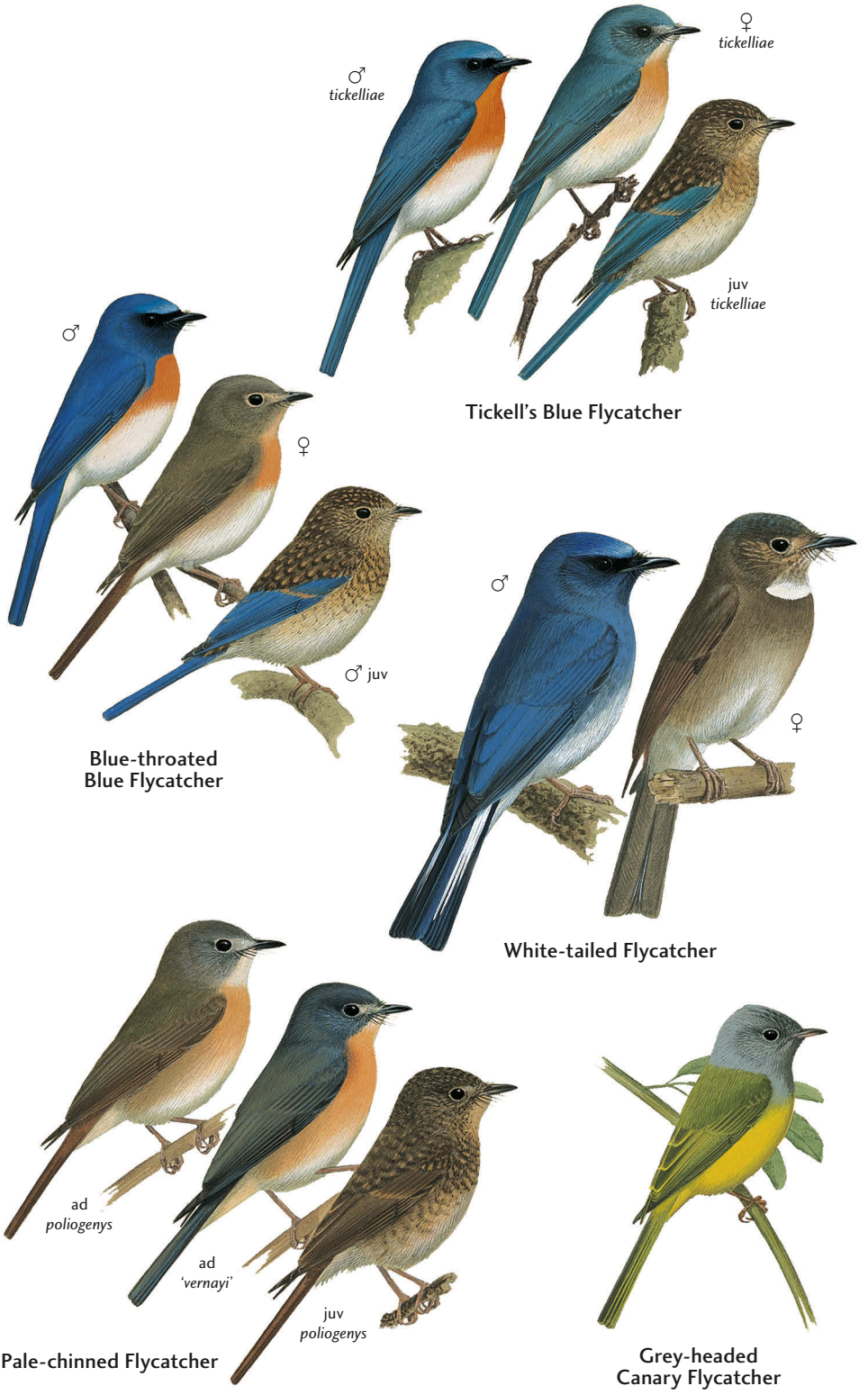
Pale-chinned Flycatcher *Cyornis poliogenys* 14 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, NE and E India, and Bangladesh. **ID** Similar to females of other *Cyornis* flycatchers, and best told by greyish crown and ear-coverts, prominent eye-ring, well-defined cream throat, and creamy-orange breast and flanks which merge with belly. In Eastern Ghats, '*vernayi*' (now thought to be a hybrid with Tickell's) has blue-grey wash to upperparts. **Voice** Song is high-pitched series of notes, slightly rising and falling. **HH** Undergrowth in open broadleaved forest; more open areas in winter. **AN** Pale-chinned Blue Flycatcher.



Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis* 13 cm

Resident. Breeds in Himalayas, hills of India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka; winters in Himalayan foothills, and plains in Pakistan and N, E and NE India. **ID** Distinctive with grey head and breast, greenish mantle, and yellow belly, flanks and vent. Upright stance, crested appearance, and flycatcher behaviour serve to distinguish it from the similarly plumaged *Seicercus* and *Abroscopus* warblers. **Voice** Loud, high-pitched interrogative, repeated *chik…whichee-whichee* song. **HH** Forest and wooded areas.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Tickell's Blue Flycatcher
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Blue-throated Blue Flycatcher
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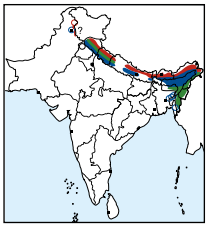
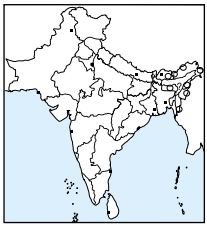
Pale-chinned Flycatcher
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher



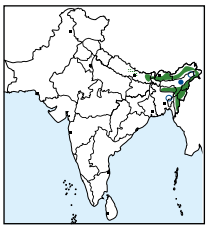
Rufous-bellied Niltava *Niltava sundara* 18 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Male has dark blue upperparts and orange underparts, with brilliant blue crown, neck patch, shoulder patch and rump. Female has well-defined oval-shaped throat patch. Also has small blue patch on side of neck (often difficult to see). **Voice** Includes a raspy *z-i-i-i-f-cha-chuk* perhaps song, a hard *tic*, a thin *see* and a low, soft *cha... cha*. **HH** Undergrowth in broadleaved or mixed forest and secondary growth.



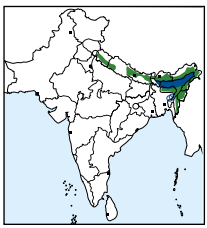
Vivid Niltava *Niltava vivida* 17.5 cm

Resident. NE Indian hills. **ID** Superficially resembles Rufous-bellied, but is larger and slimmer in appearance, usually showing peaked crown, and is typically more arboreal and found away from dense cover. Male compared with male Rufous-bellied has duller blue crown and nape and blue shoulder patch and rump are less striking. Also orange of breast extends as a variable wedge onto lower throat. Female lacks white oval-shaped patch on lower throat shown by female Rufous-bellied. Resembles female Large in coloration, with narrow buffish throat, but is smaller, lacks blue neck patch, and has less rufescent wings and tail. **Voice** Slow song of mellow whistles. **HH** Broadleaved evergreen or mixed forest.



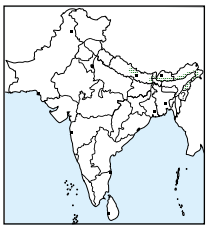
Large Niltava *Niltava grandis* 21 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** A very large, stocky niltava. Male is dark blue (often appearing entirely black in poor light), with blackish face and tufted forehead. Has brilliant blue crown, neck patch, shoulder patches and rump. Female has blue patch on side of neck (which can be obscured), dark olive-brown upperparts with rufescent wings and tail, clearly defined (narrow) buff throat, and rufous-buff forecrown and lores. Lacks white patch on lower throat of female Rufous-bellied. **Voice** Melancholy song of 3–4 ascending whistles. **HH** Dense, moist broadleaved forest, especially near streams.



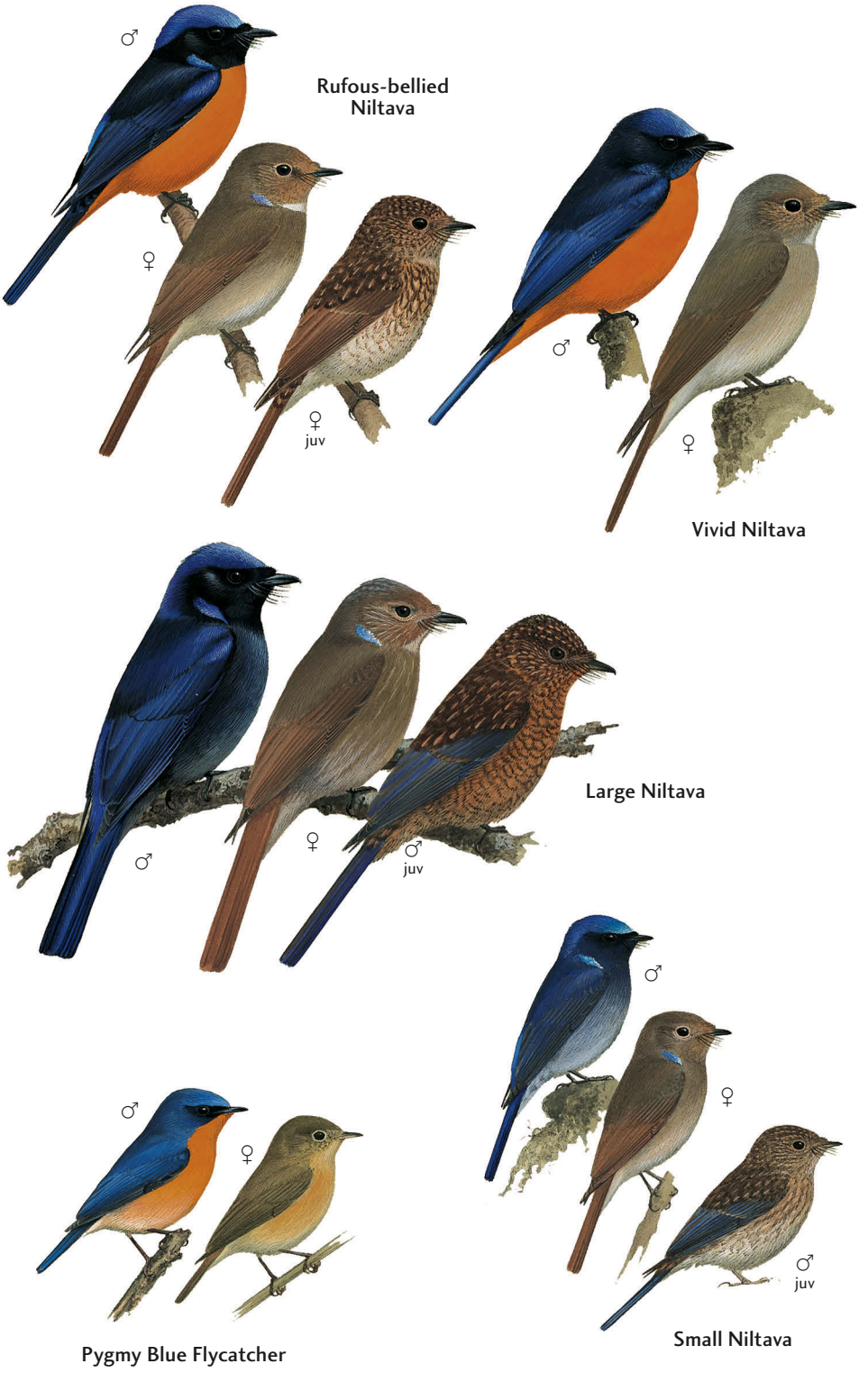
Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* 13 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Small size. Male dark blue, with brilliant blue forehead and neck patch. Female is dusky brown with indistinct blue neck patch and rufescent wings and tail; lacks oval throat patch of female Rufous-bellied. **Voice** Thin, high-pitched song which rises then falls. **HH** Bushes at track edge, along streams, in forest clearings; also reed and grass jungle in plains in winter.



Pygmy Blue Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** A very small flycatcher with short tail and tiny bill, giving rise to flowerpecker-like appearance. Has curious habit of stretching head forward, dropping and spreading wings and fanning tail. Male has blue upperparts (with bright blue forecrown), and underparts almost entirely orange. Female and first-year male has olive-brown upperparts and orange-buff underparts. **Voice** Song is a short, weak *tzzit-che-che-che-heeeee*; call is a low *churr*. **HH** Dense, moist broadleaved forest.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Rufous-bellied Niltava
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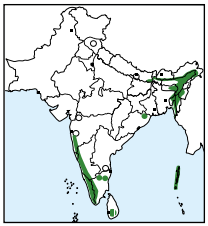
Small Niltava

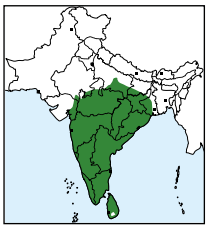


Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella* 25 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills, hills of NE, E and S India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Male has glistening violet-blue upperparts and black underparts. Female and first-year male entirely dull blue-green, with dusky lores and blackish flight feathers. Both sexes with striking red eye. Juvenile is entirely dull brown. **Voice** A liquid *tulip wae-waet-oo*. **HH** Evergreen and moist deciduous forest.

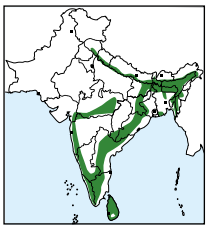
Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis* 20 cm

Resident. Hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From other leafbirds, in all plumages, by blue panel in wing and blue sides to tail. Also lacks well-defined golden-orange forehead of Golden-fronted Leafbird. Male has small violet-blue moustachial stripe, black mask with diffuse yellow border, golden cast to crown and nape, and bright blue shoulder patch. Female is almost entirely green, with golden cast to crown and nape; throat is pale bluish-green, with brighter turquoise moustachial. Juvenile has green head, with slight suggestion of turquoise moustachial. **Voice** Varied whistles, chuckles and rattles, with much mimicry, difficult to separate from other leafbirds. **HH** Open forest and well-wooded areas.



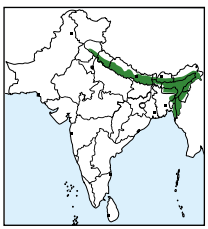
Jerdon's Leafbird *Chloropsis jerdoni* 20 cm

Resident. Peninsular India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Has greenish wings and tail (lacking blue panels) compared with Blue-winged. Male lacks golden forehead of Golden-fronted, and has smaller black throat patch. Female has broad diffuse yellow border to turquoise throat (female Golden-fronted has black throat). Juvenile has turquoise throat, brighter in moustachial region. **Voice** As Blue-winged. **HH** As Blue-winged. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Blue-winged Leafbird *C. cochinchinensis*.



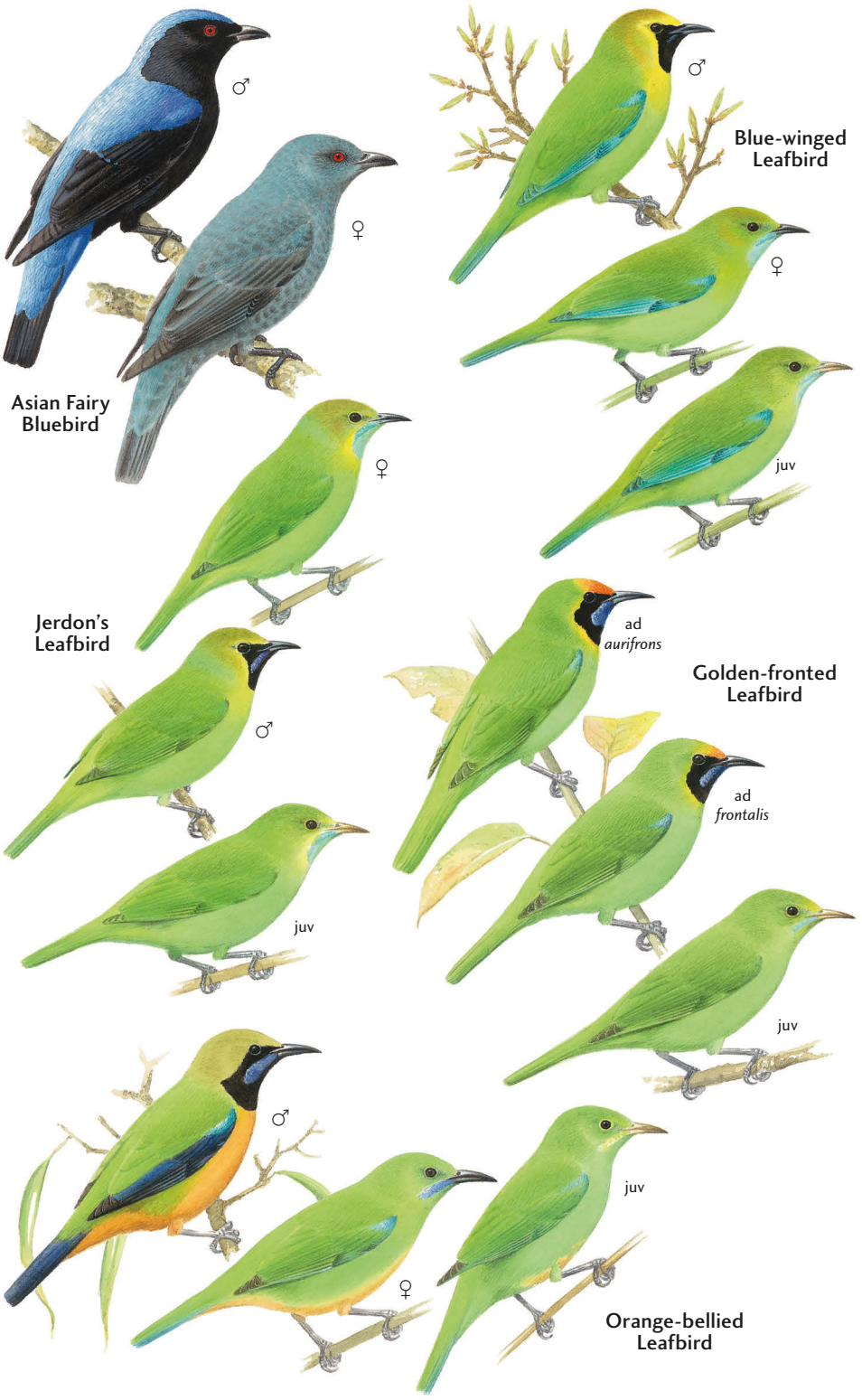
Golden-fronted Leafbird *Chloropsis aurifrons* 19 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE, E, S and SW India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult best told from other leafbirds by golden-orange forehead (dull on some birds, especially females). Also lacks blue panels in wings and tail of Blue-winged and has more extensive black throat compared with Blue-winged and Jerdon's. Juvenile is all green, with diffuse yellowish patch on forecrown and a touch of blue in moustachial region. Nominate (NE, south to Orissa) has purplish-blue throat and broad golden-yellow collar (especially pronounced across breast). *C. a. frontalis* (S India) and *C. a. insularis* (Sri Lanka) have purplish-blue restricted to moustachial, and yellow collar is less prominent or absent. **Voice** See Blue-winged. **HH** Broadleaved forest and secondary growth.



Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* 20 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male from other leafbirds by black of throat extending onto breast, orange belly and vent, large blue moustachial stripe, and purplish-blue flight feathers and tail. Female is largely green; orange centre of belly and vent and large blue moustachial stripe are best distinctions from other leafbirds. Juvenile is all green with blue moustachial and usually with touch of orange on underparts. **Voice** See Blue-winged. **HH** Broadleaved forest.


♂
♀
Asian Fairy Bluebird
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Blue-winged Leafbird
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Jerdon's Leafbird
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aurifrons
Golden-fronted Leafbird
ad
frontalis
juv
♂
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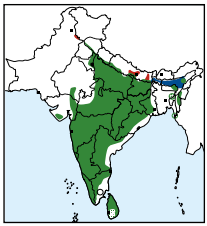
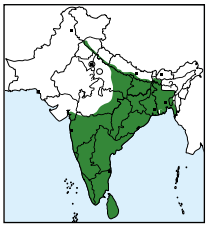
Orange-bellied Leafbird



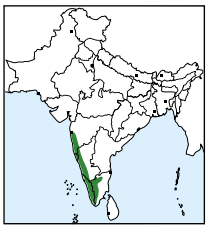
Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile* 10 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NE, NW and E subcontinent. **ID** From other flowerpeckers by combination of stout bluish-grey bill, indistinct dark malar stripe, lightly streaked breast, comparatively long and broad, fairly dark tail with white tip (which can be rather indistinct), and orange-red iris. Juvenile has pinkish bill. *D. a. modestum* (NE) has finer bill, and is more olive-green above and yellowish below. **Voice** Has a *tchup-tchup* call which is not so hard as *chick* call of Pale-billed Flowerpecker. **HH** Forest and well-wooded country.



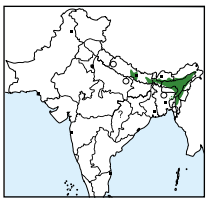
Pale-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum erythrorhynchos* 8 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NE and NW subcontinent. **ID** From Nilgiri and Plain Flowerpeckers by pinkish bill. Very plain with greyish-olive upperparts with slight greenish cast, and pale greyish underparts with variable yellowish-buff wash. *D. e. ceylonense* (Sri Lanka) has brown culmen and darker, more olive upperparts. **Voice** Hurried chittering song is lower-pitched that that of Thick-billed Flowerpecker; call is a sharp *chik chik chik*. **HH** Open broadleaved forest and well-wooded areas. Feeds chiefly on mistletoe berries.



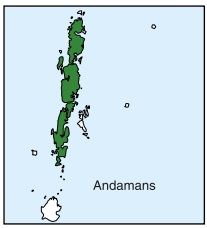
Nilgiri Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor* 9 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** Compared with Plain Flowerpecker of Himalayas and NE, has darker olive-brown upperparts and paler greyish-white underparts, with faint yellowish-buff wash on breast and belly. From Pale-billed by dark bill (grey, with darker tip), and darker and browner upperparts which contrast more strongly with underparts, and more pronounced supercilium. **Voice** Songs include a very high, thin, short, trilled and repeated *tseep-tsip-tsip* and very short, more rapid, descending trilled *tse e e ep*. Calls include a hard, very short staccato ticking often given for extended periods. **HH** Edges of broadleaved forest and well-wooded areas. Especially fond of mistletoe berries, like many flowerpeckers. **TN** Nilgiri, Plain and Andaman Flowerpeckers are usually treated as conspecific, using the name Plain Flowerpecker *D. concolor* for the complex.



Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum* (*concolor*) *minullum* 8.5 cm

Resident. C and E Himalayan foothills, hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Pale-billed by fine dark bill (with paler base to lower mandible). Has olive-green upperparts and edges to flight feathers and dusky greyish-olive underparts with yellow on throat and belly, which are further differences from Pale-billed; juvenile has browner upperparts and greyish-white underparts. **Voice** Song is very high, thin and repeated *tsit tsit tsit-si-si-si-si*. Calls include a rapid, very dry, thin, high-pitched ticking. **HH** Edges and clearings of broadleaved evergreen and deciduous forest, also groves and plantations. Very fond of mistletoe berries.

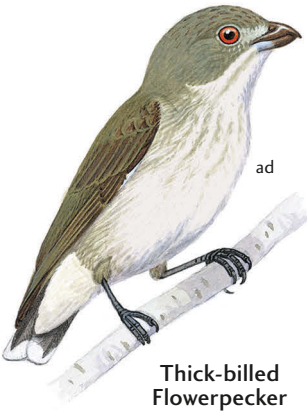


Andaman Flowerpecker *Dicaeum* (*concolor*) *virescens* 8.5 cm

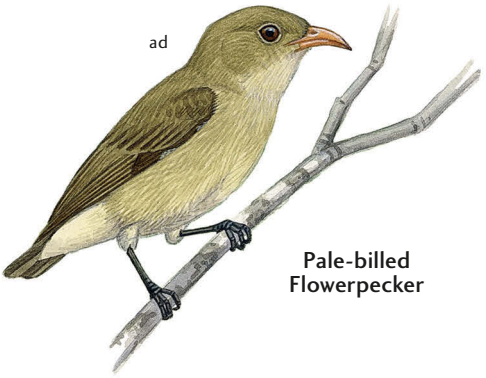
Resident. Andamans. Only flowerpecker in the Andaman Islands. **ID** Has brighter green upperparts than Plain, with grey throat and breast contrasting with yellow lower belly, flanks and vent. Crown is faintly speckled. Tail is glossy black. **Voice** Songs include an extremely high, musical *sit sew, sit sew, sit sew...* and buzzier very short notes mixed with calls. Calls include a very high-pitched, short piercing *zink* and shrill *tzit, tzit...* **HH** Trees with mistletoe.

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum* 10 cm

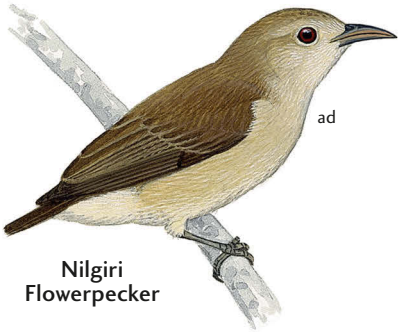
Resident. Himalayas, hills of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From other flowerpeckers by blackish streaking on white or yellowish-white underparts and orange-yellow vent. Also has blackish malar stripe, curved black bill, whitish supercilium, red eye, bright olive-green upperparts with contrasting blackish primaries, and blackish tail. Juvenile has duller upperparts, and greyish-white underparts with paler yellow vent and less prominent streaking. **Voice** A short distinctive *dzeep*. **HH** Open forest and forest edges. Highly favours mistletoe berries.



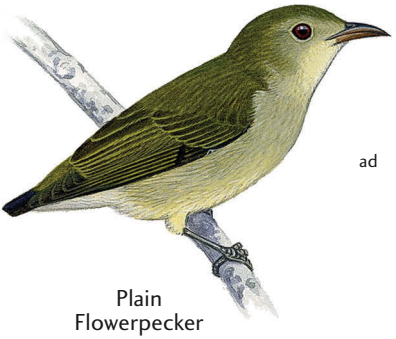
Thick-billed
Flowerpecker



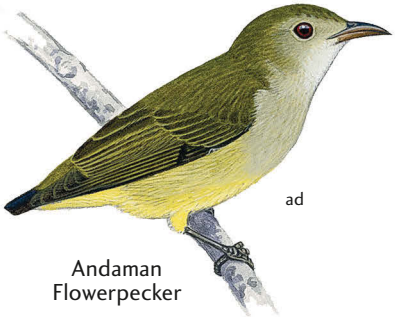
Pale-billed
Flowerpecker



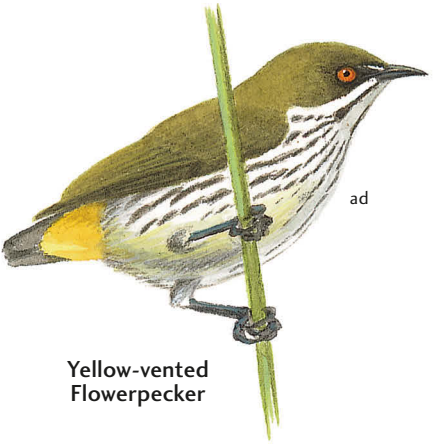
Nilgiri
Flowerpecker



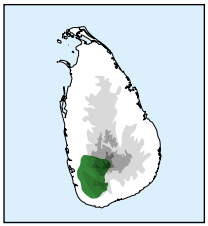
Plain
Flowerpecker



Andaman
Flowerpecker

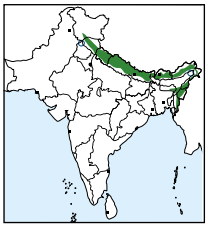


Yellow-vented
Flowerpecker



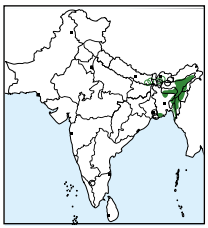
Legge's Flowerpecker *Dicaeum vincens* 10 cm

Resident. Sri Lanka. **ID** Stout-billed flowerpecker. Male has bluish-black upperparts, white throat and breast, yellow belly, white undertail-coverts, and white tips to outer tail feathers. Female is like a dull version of male, with blue-grey cap and dark olive mantle and back. Juvenile resembles female, but has yellow wash to throat, and upperparts are more uniform olive-brown. **Voice** A weak *tze-tze-tze*. **HH** Forest and wooded gardens.



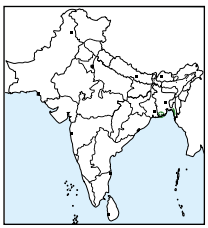
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* 9 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Male has dark metallic blue or green upperparts, buff-coloured underparts, scarlet breast patch, and black centre of belly. Female has olive-green upperparts and orange-buff underparts with olive breast sides and flanks. Juvenile has whiter throat merging into pale greyish-olive of underparts, and duller olive upperparts than female (more similar to Plain, but lacks supercilium and pale ear-coverts, and usually at higher elevation). **Voice** Song is a shrill *titty-titty-titty*. Call is a clicking *chip*. **HH** Broadleaved forest and secondary growth.



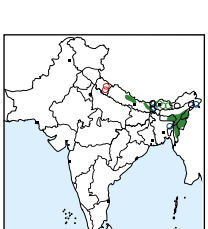
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum* 9 cm

Resident. E Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Male has scarlet upperparts and black 'sides' to whitish underparts. Female has scarlet rump contrasting with blackish tail, olive-brown upperparts, and faint buffish wash to whitish underparts. Juvenile as female, but lacks scarlet rump (usually with touch of orange); has bright orange-red bill, and fine whitish supercilium to eye. **Voice** Song is a thin, repeated *tissit, tissit*.... Call is a hard, metallic *tip..tip..tip* etc. **HH** Broadleaved forest and secondary growth



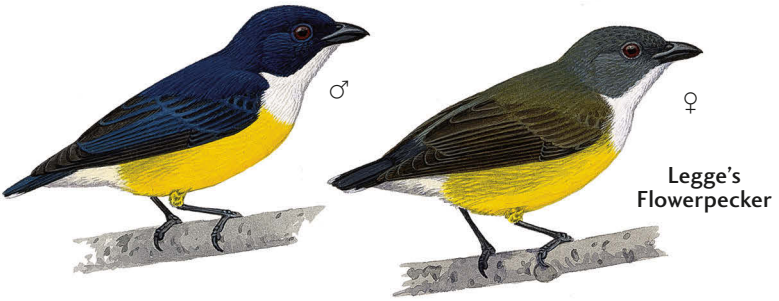
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma* 9 cm

Resident. SW and SE Bangladesh; may occur in NE India. **ID** Male is blue-grey and orange. Female from other female flowerpeckers by combination of olive-grey throat and upper breast, yellowish-orange underparts, greenish upperparts (with variable blue-grey cast to crown and mantle), blue-grey wing panel, and dull orange rump contrasting with dark tail. Juvenile is similar to female, but duller, with olive-brown upperparts, olive-yellow rump, and olive-yellow centre to belly and undertail-coverts; bill is orange with dark tip. Juvenile male has blue edges to rectrices. **Voice** Song is a sharp, high-pitched, metallic *ptit.ptit.ptit.ptit.ptit.tsi*; also a high, thin, rapid *psee-psee-psee-psee-psee-psee*, each note with an upward inflection. Call is a harsh *dzit*. **HH** Edges of evergreen forest and mangroves

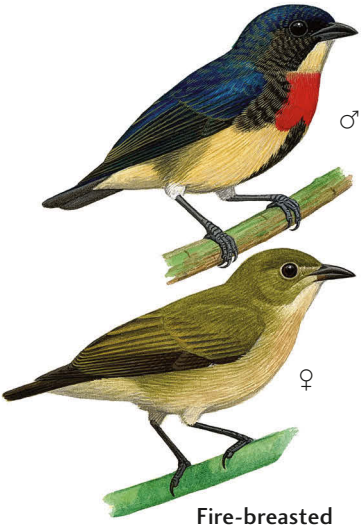


Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum melanoxanthum* 13 cm

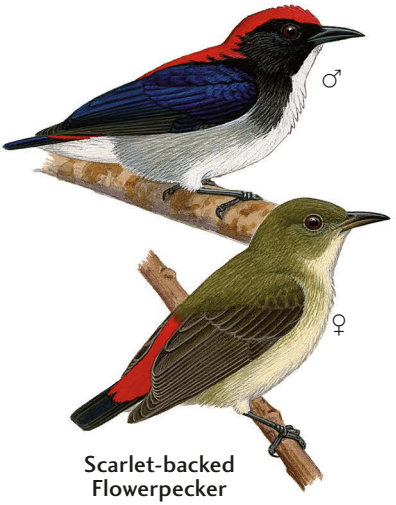
Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** A large, stout-billed flowerpecker. Has white spots at tip of undertail. Male has bluish-black upperparts and breast sides, white centre of throat and breast, and yellow rest of underparts. Has bright red eye. Female is a dull version of male, with upperparts olive-brown, sides of breast olive-grey, and belly and vent dull olive-yellow. Juvenile male is similar to female, but has brighter yellow underparts and blue-black cast to mantle and back. **Voice** Call is an agitated *zit-zit-zit-zit*. **HH** Broadleaved forest.



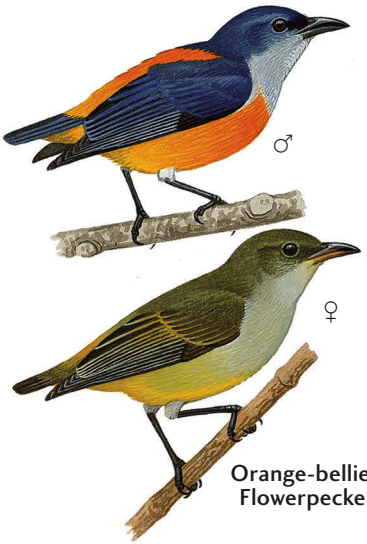
Legge's Flowerpecker



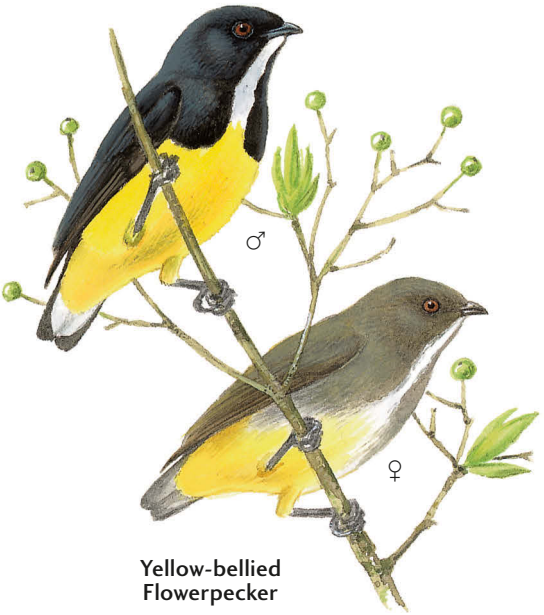
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker



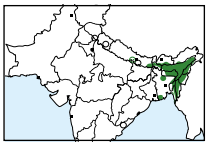
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker



Orange-bellied Flowerpecker

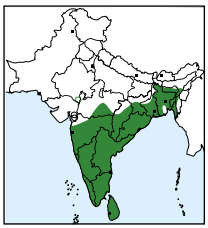


Yellow-bellied Flowerpecker



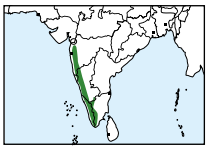
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis* 11 cm

Resident. C and E Himalayan foothills, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Shorter, straighter bill than other sunbirds, with rufous-orange throat and yellow underparts. Male has metallic green upperparts and 'ruby' cheeks. Female lacks 'ruby' cheeks and has dull olive-green upperparts. Juvenile is entirely yellow below. **HH** Open forest, forest edge. **TN** Formerly placed in *Anthreptes*.



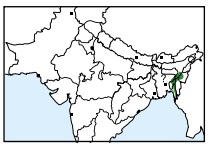
Purple-rumped Sunbird *Leptocoma zeylonica* 10 cm

Resident. Widespread in C and S India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** Male has narrow maroon breast-band, maroon head sides and mantle, metallic green shoulder patch, and yellow lower breast and belly with distinctive greyish-white flanks. Does not have eclipse plumage. Female has greyish-white throat, yellow breast, whitish flanks, olive rump, and rufous-brown wing panel. Juvenile is uniform yellow below; rump colour separates it from Crimson-backed Sunbird, and rufous-brown on wings from Purple. **HH** Cultivation and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Nectarinia*.



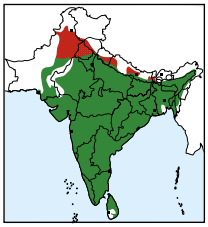
Crimson-backed Sunbird *Leptocoma minima* 8 cm

Resident. Hills of W India. **ID** Smaller and finer-billed than Purple-rumped. Male has broad crimson breast-band and mantle, and pale yellowish-white belly. Lacks metallic green shoulder patch of Purple-rumped. Eclipse male as female, but has metallic purple rump and crimson scapulars and back. Female has crimson rump, olive-green upperparts and edges to wings, and uniform yellowish underparts. **HH** Evergreen forest and plantations. **TN** Formerly placed in *Nectarinia*.



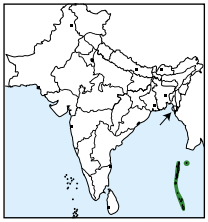
Purple-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma sperata* 10 cm

Resident. Plains of NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Small, short-billed sunbird. Male has purple throat, black mask and mantle, maroon breast and belly, and blue rump. Does not have eclipse plumage. Female has dull yellowish underparts with more olive-coloured throat, and olive-green upperparts; face is plain with fine eye-ring. **HH** Open forest and gardens. **TN** Formerly placed in *Nectarinia*. **AN** Van Hasselt's Sunbird.



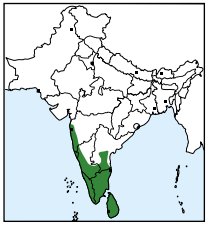
Purple Sunbird *Cinnyris asiaticus* 10 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NE and NW subcontinent. **ID** Has shorter and less downcurved bill than Loten's. Male is metallic blue-green and purple becoming blacker on belly and vent. Female has uniform yellowish underparts, with faint supercilium and darker mask (whiter below in worn plumage). Eclipse male is as female, but has a broad blackish stripe down centre of throat and breast, metallic blue wing coverts and glossy black wings and tail. Juvenile is brighter yellow on entire underparts than female. **HH** Open deciduous forest and gardens. **TN** Formerly placed in *Nectarinia*.



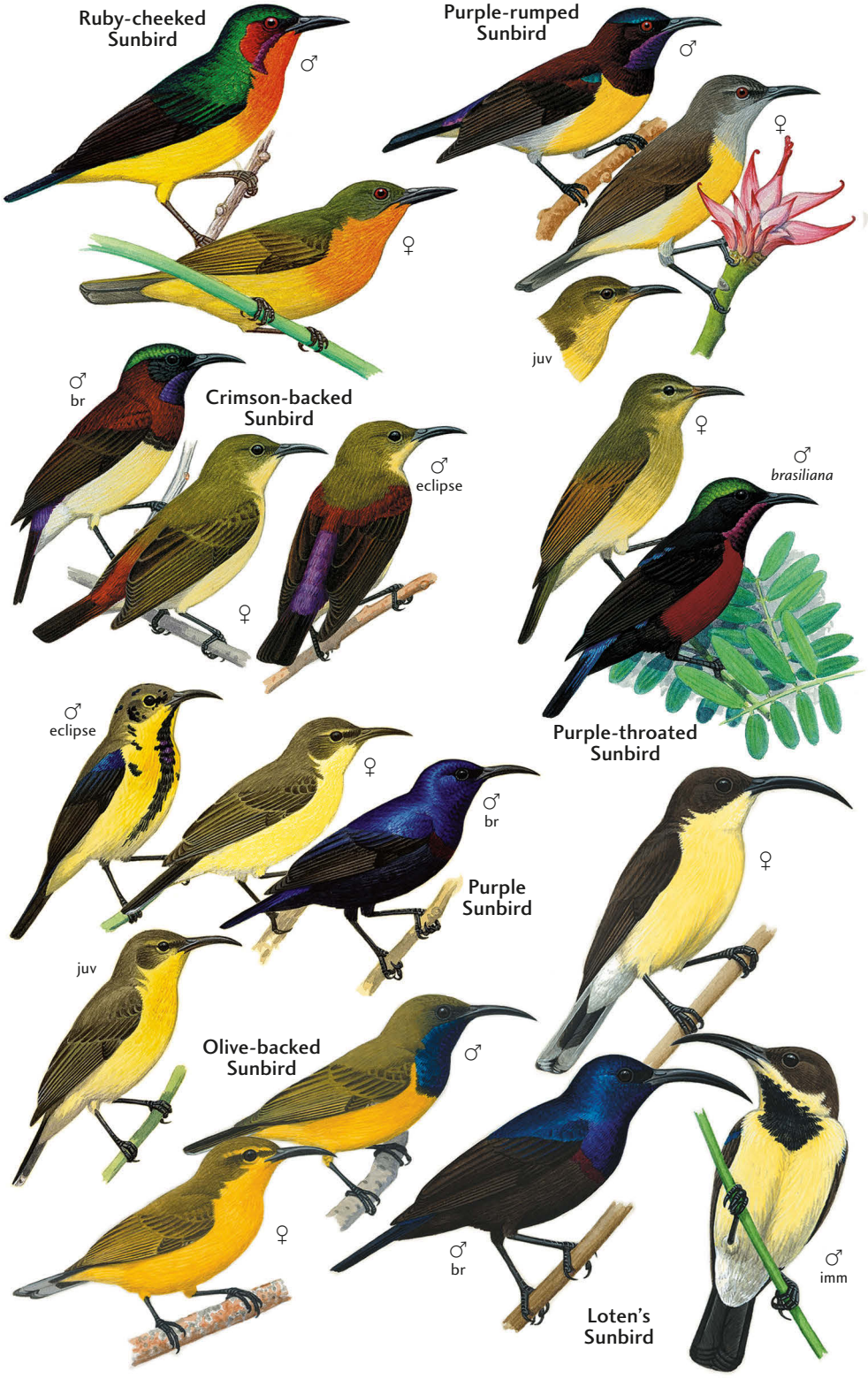
Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* 11 cm

Resident. Andamans and Nicobars. **ID** *C. j. andamanicus* (Andaman Is) has olive-green upperparts, metallic purple-and-green throat and yellow belly and vent. Female similar to female Purple, but is greener above and brighter yellow below. Eclipse male as female, but has broad blackish stripe down centre of throat and breast. Male *C. j. klossi* (Nicobar Is) has metallic purple or blue feathers on forehead; female *klossi* is brighter yellow on underparts than female *andamanicus*. Male *C. j. proselia* (Car Nicobar) is similar to *klossi*, but is smaller in size with shorter bill. **HH** Forest and scrub. **TN** Formerly placed in *Nectarinia*.



Loten's Sunbird *Cinnyris lotenia* 13 cm

Resident. W and S Indian peninsula and Sri Lanka. **ID** Larger and with longer, sharply downcurved bill, compared with Purple, with longer more graduated tail. Male from Purple by broad maroon band across breast and dusky brown wings, belly and flanks. Immature male is as female, but has broad blackish stripe down centre of throat and breast and metallic blue-green wing-coverts. Existence of eclipse plumage in male uncertain. Female has dark olive-green upperparts and pale yellow underparts (greyer-brown above and whiter below in worn plumage). Upperparts are generally darker than on Purple, and ear-coverts and sides of neck contrast with throat and breast, giving rise to hooded appearance (lacking supercilium). **HH** Well-wooded country. **TN** Formerly placed in *Nectarinia*.


Ruby-cheeked Sunbird
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Crimson-backed Sunbird
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♂ brasiliana
Purple-throated Sunbird
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Olive-backed Sunbird
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♂ br
Loten's Sunbird
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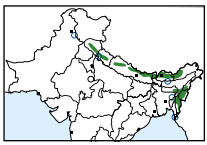
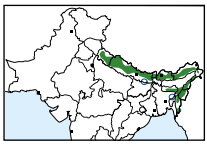


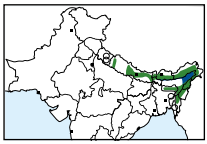
Mrs Gould's Sunbird *Aethopyga gouldiae* 10 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Male has metallic purplish-blue crown, ear-coverts and throat; crimson sides of neck, mantle and back (reaching yellow rump); yellow belly, and blue tail. Female has pale yellow rump band, yellow belly, short bill, and prominent white on tail. Juvenile male is similar to female, but has bright yellow breast and belly. *A. g. dabryii*, with scarlet breast, has been recorded in NE. **HH** Rhododendron and other flowering forest trees.



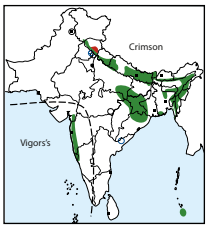
Green-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga nipalensis* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Male from Mrs Gould's by maroon mantle and olive-green back (although note racial variation), dark metallic blue-green crown and throat, and blackish sides of head. Has blue-green uppertail-coverts and tail (can appear blue, but not purplish-blue as on Mrs Gould's). Female has greyish-olive throat and breast (very grey on some birds), becoming yellowish-olive on belly and flanks. Lacks well-defined yellow rump band (although rump and uppertail-coverts are yellowish-green). *A. n. horsfieldi* (W Himalayas) has only narrow maroon band across mantle compared with nominate of C&E Himalayas; male *A. n. victoriae* (Mizoram) has entirely green mantle. **HH** Broadleaved forest.



Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Male has black throat and breast, greyish-olive underparts, and crimson mantle. Female has pale yellow rump band; from Mrs Gould's by greyish-olive underparts (without any yellow); longer, dark and noticeably downcurved bill, and narrow or indistinct pale tips to outer tail feathers. **HH** Bushes in forest and secondary growth.

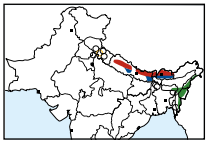


Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* 11 cm

Resident. Himalayas, hills of NE and E India and Bangladesh; also N and NE plains in winter. **ID** Male has crimson mantle, scarlet throat and breast, and yellowish-olive belly. Female has yellowish-olive underparts; lacks yellow rump or prominent white on tail. Immature male as female but with red throat and breast. Male *A. s. nicobarica* (Nicobars) smaller, has violet-purple (rather than green) crown and tail, grey belly and vent, and lacks elongated central tail feathers. **HH** Bushes in forest.

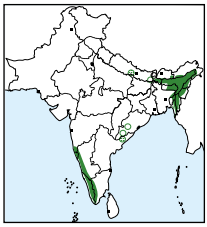
Vigors's Sunbird *Aethopyga* (*siparaja*) *vigorsii* 11 cm

Resident. Western Ghats. **ID** Larger than Crimson. In male, central tail feathers extend only just beyond rest of tail, and has scarlet throat and breast mixed with fine yellow streaking, uniform grey rest of underparts, and uniform grey-brown wings lacking yellowish-olive edges. Female is has dark olive upperparts and grey underparts. Immature male is similar to female, but with dull scarlet throat and breast. **HH** Evergreen and moist deciduous forest.



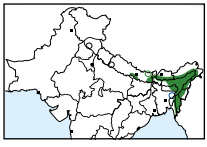
Fire-tailed Sunbird *Aethopyga ignicauda* 12 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Male has scarlet nape and mantle, and very long scarlet tail. Female similar to female Green-tailed, but has straighter bill, squarer tail (lacking white tips) with trace of brownish-orange at sides, more noticeable olive-yellow on rump (not forming prominent band). Eclipse male similar to female, but has brighter yellow belly, and scarlet uppertail-coverts and tail-sides. **HH** Breeds rhododendron shrub; winters broadleaved forest.



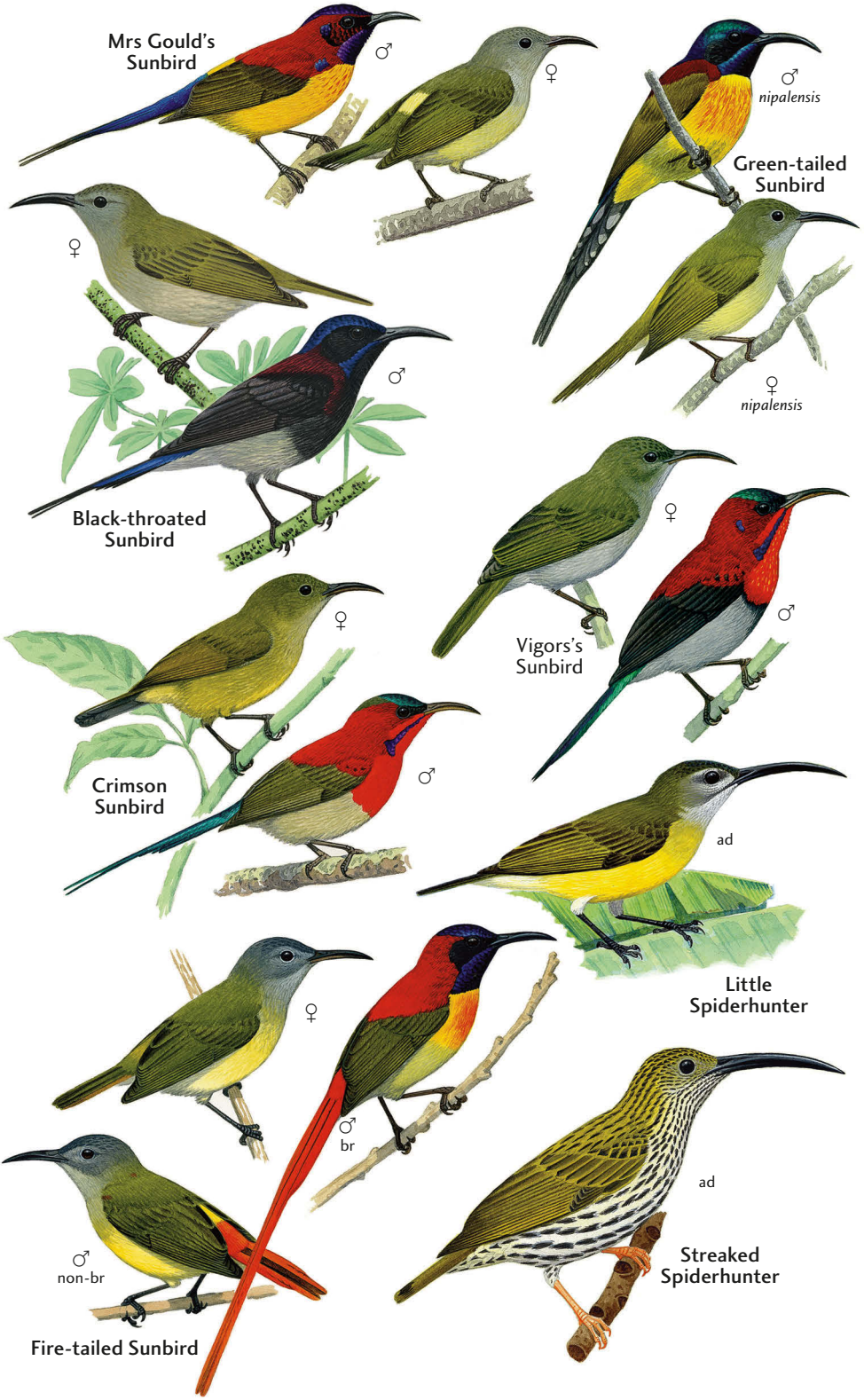
Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra* 16 cm

Resident. E Himalayan foothills, hills of NE, E and SW India and Bangladesh and adjacent plains. **ID** From Streaked Spiderhunter by smaller size and proportionately longer bill, unstreaked olive-green upperparts, whitish throat and breast merging into pale yellow of rest of underparts, whitish crescents above and below eye, and dark moustachial stripe. **Voice** Song is a rapidly repeated *wit-wit-wit-wit*....; call is an abrasive *itch*. **HH** Wild bananas in moist broadleaved forest.



Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna* 19 cm

Resident. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** From Little by larger size, bold streaking on dark olive-green upperparts, and bold streaking on yellowish-white underparts. Has orange legs and feet. Has undulating, almost woodpecker-like flight. **Voice** Song is a strident chatter; call is a sharp *chirirrik* or *chirik chirik*. **HH** Moist broadleaved forest.


Mrs Gould's Sunbird
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Green-tailed Sunbird
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Black-throated Sunbird
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Vigors's Sunbird
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Little Spiderhunter
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Fire-tailed Sunbird
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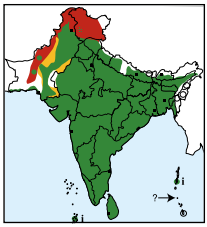
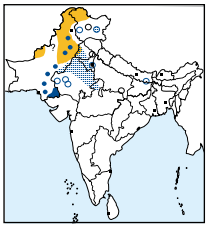
Streaked Spiderhunter



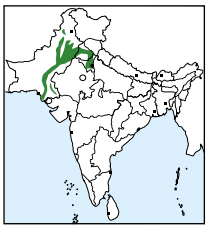
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* 15 cm

Widespread resident, except in parts of NE and NW subcontinent. **ID** Breeding male has grey crown with chestnut sides and nape, and black throat and upper breast; duller in non-breeding plumage when head pattern and black throat/breast partly obscured by pale fringes. Female has pale buff supercilium, dark brown streaking on buffish mantle, and unstreaked greyish-white underparts (faintly washed with buff on flanks). Juvenile as female, with broader buff-brown fringes to upperparts; juvenile male with greyish chin. **Voice** Call is a monotonous *chirrup*. **HH** Breeds in habitation; also cultivation in winter.



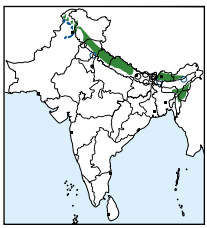
Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* 15.5 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan, Nepal and N India. **ID** Breeding male from male House by chestnut crown, fine white supercilium, extensive black on breast margining into black streaking on flanks and belly, and largely black mantle with distinct buffish-white 'braces'. In non-breeding plumage is duller, with head and body patterning partially obscured by pale fringes (although features distinct from House, especially dark flank markings, still apparent). Female very similar to female House, but generally has longer whitish supercilium, fine grey streaking on breast and flanks, and buffish-white 'braces' on mantle. **Voice** Call is similar to House, but with more metallic or squeaky notes. **HH** Cultivation, especially cereal crops, semi-desert, marshes and reedbeds.



Sind Sparrow *Passer pyrrhonotus* 13 cm

Resident. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Smaller and slimmer than House with finer bill. Male has grey (rather than chestnut) nape, with chestnut of head brighter and reduced to broad crescent surrounding ear-coverts; also has grey cheeks, small black throat, and chestnut (rather than grey) lower back (extending onto rump on some birds). Patterning only slightly obscured by buff fringes in non-breeding plumage. Female best told from House by smaller size and slimmer structure; also more prominent buffish-white supercilium, warmer buffish-brown (not brownish-grey) lower back and rump, and greyer cast to ear-coverts contrasting with whiter throat. Juvenile as female. **Voice** Call similar to House but higher-pitched. **HH** Trees by waterways, riverine forest.

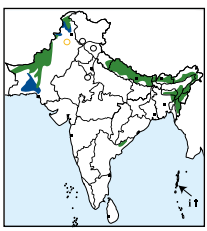


Russet Sparrow *Passer rutilans* 14.5 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE Indian hills. **ID** Slimmer than Eurasian Tree Sparrow, with finer bill. Breeding male has bright chestnut coloration to mantle and variable yellow wash on ear-coverts and underparts; lacks black cheek patch of Tree. Head and mantle coloration only slight obscured in non-breeding plumage. Female has more prominent supercilium and eye-stripe than female House; also has unstreaked buff or rufous-brown scapulars, rufous-brown lower back and rump, and faint yellowish wash to underparts. **Voice** Call is similar to House, but more musical and softer. **HH** Open forest, forest edges and cultivation near upland villages.

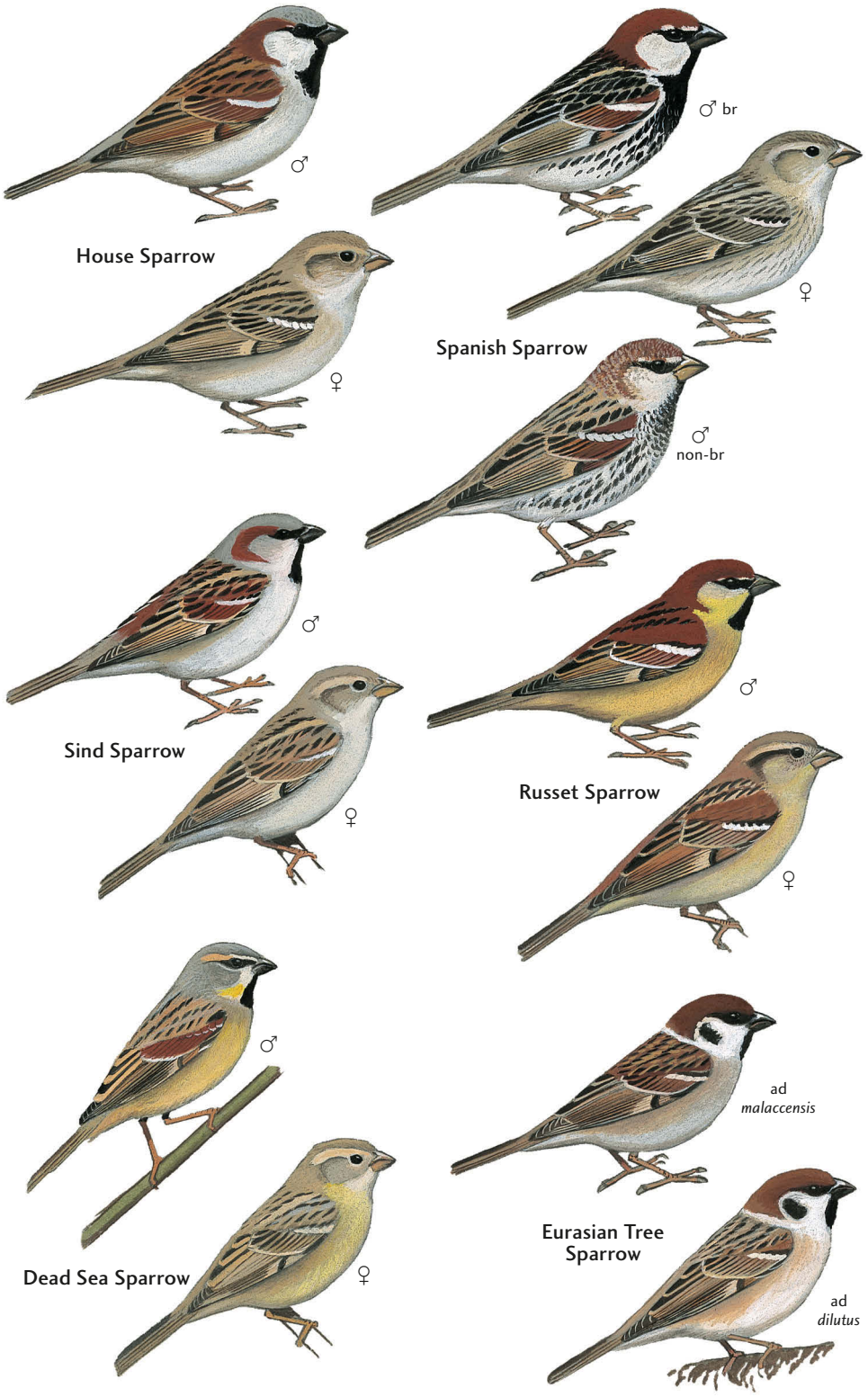
Dead Sea Sparrow *Passer moabiticus* 12.25 cm

Winter visitor. Baluchistan. **ID** Breeding male has largely grey head with prominent buff supercilium and black stripe through eye, small black throat patch, broad white submoustachial stripe, and yellow patch on side of neck. Further, has yellow wash to underparts, and chestnut coverts forming panel on wing. Non-breeding male has grey of head suffused with sandy-olive, and black of chin and throat are tipped with whitish. Female is smaller and slimmer than House and has more prominent buffish-white supercilium, indistinct yellow spot on side of neck, sandy-buff upperparts, and yellowish wash to underparts. **Voice** Calls include a *chet-chet-chet* and a liquid *chrelp*. **HH** Bushes near streams.



Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* 14 cm

Resident. Baluchistan, Himalayas, NE India, Eastern Ghats and Bangladesh. **ID** Adult has dull chestnut crown, black spot on whitish ear-coverts, small black throat patch not extending onto breast, and white collar separating chestnut nape from brown-streaked mantle. Sexes are alike. Juvenile is similar to adult, but has paler chestnut crown and diffuse black patches on ear-coverts and throat. Paler in NW (*dilutus*), becoming darker brown or rufous-brown on upperparts in N & NE (e.g. *malaccensis*). **Voice** Call is a monotonous *chip chip* which is harder than similar call of House. **HH** Habitation and cultivation.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Eurasian Tree
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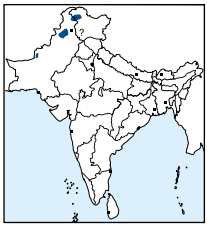
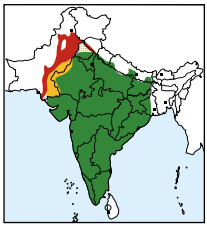
dilutus



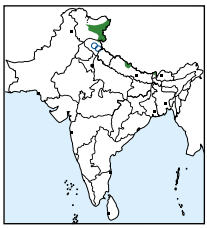
Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia* 17 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan. **ID** Stocky, short-tailed sparrow with striking head pattern. In flights shows white tips to tail and patch at base of primaries. Has broad whitish supercilium, dark brown lateral crown-stripe and eye-stripe, and pale central crown-stripe. Also shows buffish-white stripes or 'braces' on mantle, diffuse grey-brown streaking on breast and flanks, whitish fringes to grey-brown undertail-coverts, and yellow patch on lower throat (which can be difficult to see). Juvenile is similar to adult, but has warmer brown upperparts and lacks yellow throat patch. **Voice** Calls include a nasal *waip*, a *kriep* and a metallic *zveeh-vu*. **HH** Dry, stony ground in mountains.



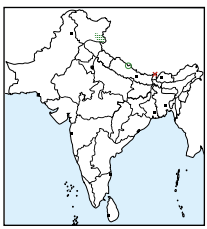
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia *Gymnoris xanthocollis* 13.5 cm

Resident. Pakistan, Nepal and Indian peninsula. **ID** Male from other sparrows by finer bill, uniform (unstreaked) brownish-grey head and upperparts, and yellow patch on lower throat. Has chestnut lesser coverts, and prominent white double wing-bar. Female is similar, but has brown lesser coverts, buff-tinged tips to median coverts, and yellow on throat is feint or absent. Juvenile similar to female, but upperpart coloration is more sandy-brown, with pale buffish supercilium, and lacks any yellow on throat. **Voice** Call is similar to House Sparrow's. **HH** Open dry forest, thorn scrub trees at edges of cultivation and in Pakistan also irrigated plantations. **TN** Formerly placed in *Petronia*. **AN** Yellow-throated Sparrow.



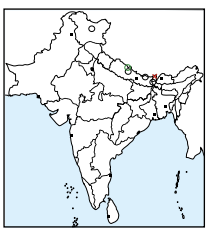
Tibetan Snowfinch *Montifringilla adamsi* 17 cm

Resident. N Himalayas. **ID** Adult from other snowfinches in region by largely white greater and median coverts and white fringes to inner secondaries and outermost tertial (forming broad white wing panel). Additional features are combination of whitish-tipped black throat with plain grey-brown lores and forehead, and dull grey-brown coloration to head and upperparts. Adult non-breeding has pale (rather than blackish) bill. Juvenile lacks black throat, is more buffish in coloration, with buffish (rather than white) sides to tail. From other juvenile snowfinches by buffish-white wing panel. **Voice** Rapid sparrow-like, staccato chattering song. **HH** Rocky high-altitude semi-desert, often near villages and upland cultivation.



White-rumped Snowfinch *Onychostruthus taczanowskii* 17 cm

Resident (?) and winter visitor. N Himalayas. **ID** Adult from other snowfinches by white rump (very conspicuous in flight) and pale greyish coloration to upperparts (with prominently streaked mantle and scapulars). Additional features are black lores, white throat, white forehead and supercilium, white sides to tail (lacking dark terminal bar), and diffuse white panel at base of secondaries and inner primaries (with secondaries broadly tipped whitish). Bill is pale yellowish-horn with darker tip. Juvenile has warmer brown coloration to mantle and wings, buffish breast and flanks, and buff sides to tail. **Voice** Simple weak song of wheezes, whistles and clipped notes. **HH** Rocky high-altitude stony plateaux. **TN** Formerly placed in *Pyrgilauda*.

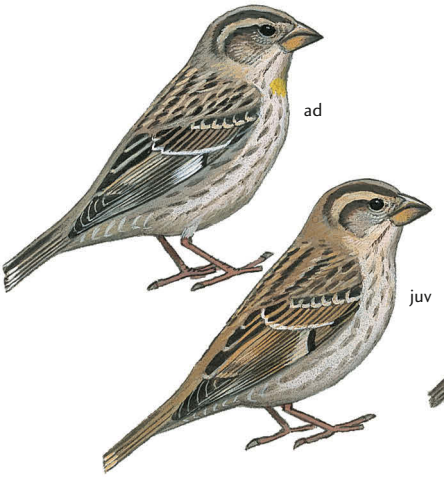


Rufous-necked Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda ruficollis* 15 cm

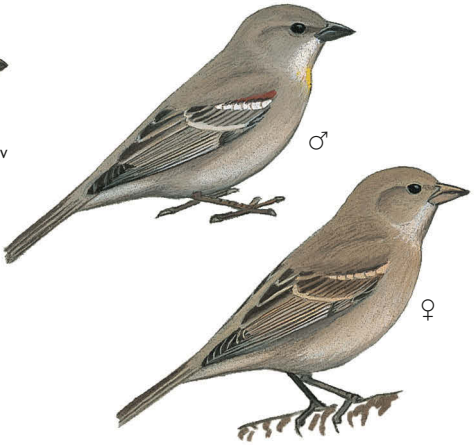
Resident? N Himalayas. **ID** Adult from Blanford's Snowfinch by greyish-white forehead (lacking blackish centre), fine black malar stripe, white throat, and conspicuous streaking on mantle and scapulars. Has white patch in median coverts (visible in flight), and broad buffish greater covert wing-bar. Female has duller rufous 'neck' and less white in wing. Juvenile is duller, with buffish tinge to breast and flanks, warm cinnamon tinge to ear-coverts and neck sides, and buffish median and greater covert wing-bars. From juvenile Blanford's by dark malar stripe and streaked mantle and scapulars. **Voice** Song is an erratic repetition of simple sparrow-like notes. **HH** Barren, stony high altitude steppe and grassy plateaux.

Blanford's Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda blanfordi* 15 cm

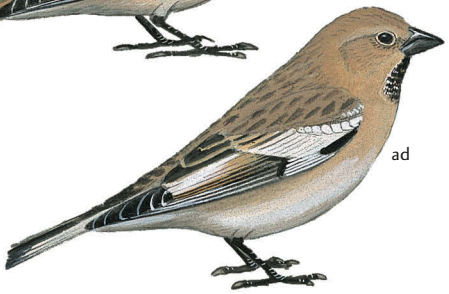
Resident (?) and winter visitor. N Himalayas. **ID** Adult from Rufous-necked by black centre to white forehead, black 'spur' in front of eye dividing white supercilium, and black chin and centre of throat. Has rather uniform wing-coverts (lacking prominent wing-bars), white panel in secondaries, and mantle and scapulars are unstreaked (or, rarely, very faintly streaked). Also has stouter bill. Juvenile from juvenile Rufous-necked by unstreaked mantle and scapulars. **Voice** Flocks give rapid twittering call on ground and in flight. **HH** High-altitude steppe country. **AN** Plain-backed Snowfinch.



Rock Sparrow



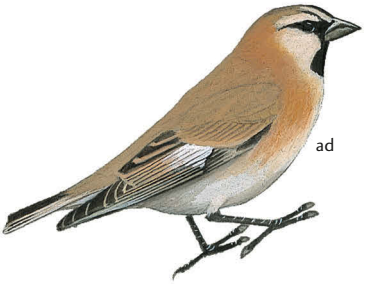
Chestnut-shouldered Petronia



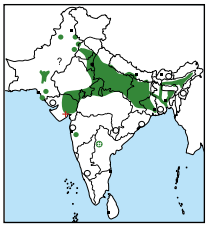
Tibetan Snowfinch

White-rumped Snowfinch

Rufous-necked Snowfinch

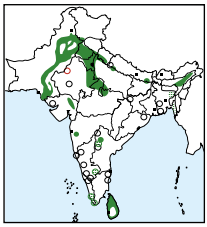


Blanford's Snowfinch



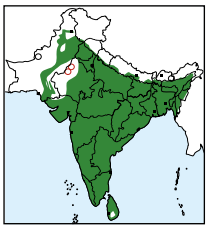
Black-breasted Weaver *Ploceus benghalensis* 14 cm

Resident. Mainly Indus and Gangetic plains. **ID** Breeding male has yellow crown and black breast. Throat may be black or white, and some variants have white ear-coverts and throat. In non-breeding male, female and juvenile plumages, breast-band is blotchy or restricted to small patches at sides, and may show indistinct, diffuse streaking on lower breast and flanks. In these plumages, has yellow supercilium (often white behind eye), distinct yellow patch on side of neck, and yellow submoustachial stripe (with black malar); similar to Streaked Weaver, except crown, nape and ear-coverts more uniform; rump also indistinctly streaked and, like nape, contrasts with heavily streaked mantle. **HH** Seasonally flooded grassland and reedy marshes; irrigated cultivation in winter.



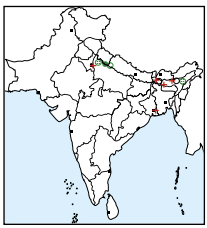
Streaked Weaver *Ploceus manyar* 14 cm

Widespread local resident. **ID** Breeding male has yellow crown, dark brown head sides and throat, and heavily streaked breast and flanks. Other plumages typically show boldly streaked underparts. However, can be only lightly streaked on underparts, especially juvenile, when best told from Baya Weaver by combination of yellow supercilium and neck patch, heavily streaked crown, dark or heavily streaked ear-coverts, and pronounced dark malar and moustachial stripes. When streaking is absent on underparts, streaked crown, nape and rump are best features from Black-breasted. **HH** Reedbeds and seasonally flooded areas.



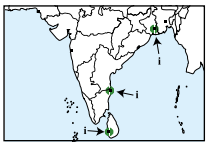
Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus* 15 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of NE and NW subcontinent. **ID** Breeding male of nominate has yellow crown, dark brown ear-coverts and throat, unstreaked yellow breast, and yellow streaking on mantle and scapulars. Breeding male *burmanicus* (NE) has greyer face, buff or pale grey throat, and buff breast. Non-breeding male, female and juvenile usually have unstreaked buffish underparts; streaking can be as prominent as on poorly marked Streaked, but has less distinct and buffish supercilium, lacks yellow neck patch, and lacks pronounced dark moustachial and malar stripes. Non-breeding male, female and juvenile *burmanicus* more rufous-buff on supercilium and underparts. **HH** Grassland and scrub with scattered trees.



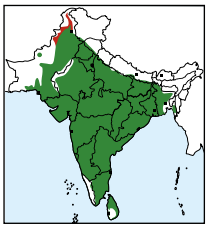
Finn's Weaver *Ploceus megarhynchus* 17 cm

Resident. NE India and SW Nepal. **ID** Large weaver with heavy bill and long tail. Male breeding from other weavers by bright yellow head with dark-brown ear-coverts, golden-yellow underparts, and yellow rump and uppertail-coverts. Mantle and back are boldly streaked dark brown. Has dark patches on breast, which can show as complete breast-band. Female breeding and first-year male have pale yellow to yellowish-brown head, and pale yellow to buffish-white underparts; mantle is rich brown with dark streaking. Adult non-breeding lacks yellow and is similar to Baya; upperparts are darker grey-brown with head more uniform. Breeding male *P. m. salimalii* (NE subcontinent) differs from nominate in having browner rump, and white undertail-coverts (sometimes also white belly). **HH** Mainly grassland with scattered trees, also rice and sugarcane cultivation. Globally threatened.



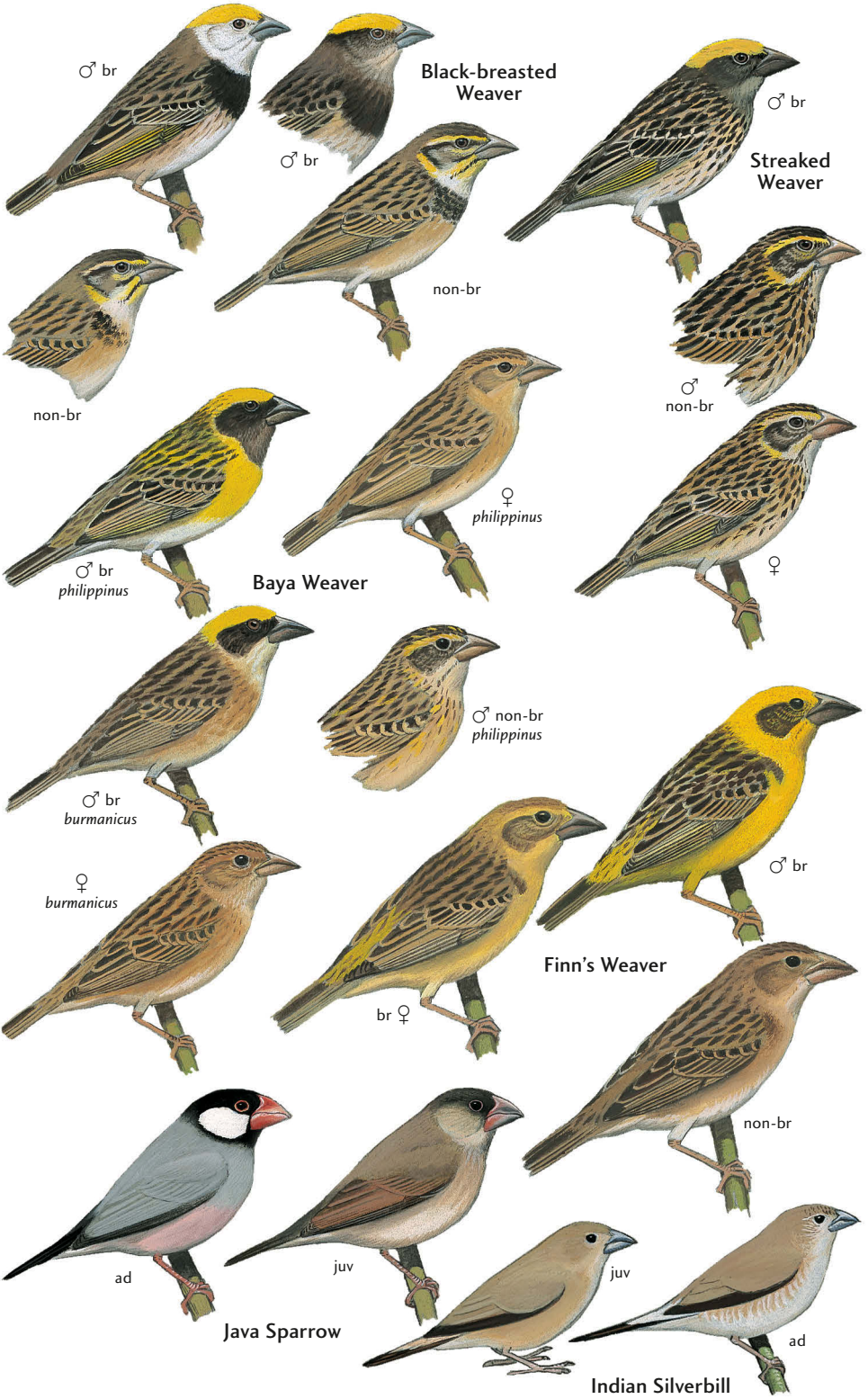
Java Sparrow *Lonchura oryzivora* 12.5–13 cm

Introduced resident (probably now extirpated). India and Sri Lanka. **ID** Adult is very striking, with pinkish-red bill and eye-ring, black crown and throat contrasting with white cheeks, grey upperparts and breast, pink belly and flanks, and black rump/uppertail-coverts and tail. Juvenile is much duller, with dark grey crown and dusky white cheeks, pink base to grey bill, brownish-grey upperparts with rufous fringes to tertials and secondaries, and buffish underparts with diffuse greyish breast. **HH** Cultivation, gardens and reedbeds.



Indian Silverbill *Euodice malabarica* 11–11.5 cm

Widespread resident, except in NW and NE subcontinent and Himalayas. **ID** Male has fawn-brown upperparts, whitish face and underparts with barred flanks, long and pointed black tail, and white rump and uppertail-coverts. Female is duller with plainer face, and flanks are less barred. Juvenile lacks barring on flanks, has dark mottling on rump, and tail is shorter and more rounded. **Voice** Contact call is a *tchrip!* or *tchreep!*; flight call is a repeated *chir-rup!* Song is a series of short, abrupt trills. **HH** Dry cultivation, grassland and thorn scrub. **TN** Formerly placed in *Lonchura*.


♂ br
Black-breasted Weaver
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Streaked Weaver
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♂ non-br
♂ br philippinus
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Baya Weaver
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♂ non-br philippinus
♂ br burmanicus
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Finn's Weaver
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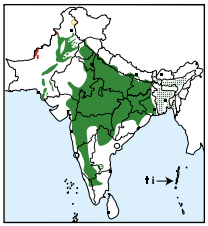
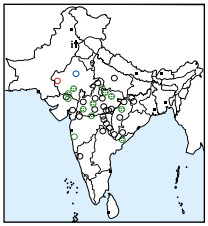
Java Sparrow
Indian Silverbill



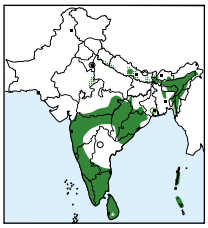
Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava* 10 cm

Widespread resident, except in parts of NE, NW and E subcontinent. **ID** Breeding male is mainly red with irregular white spotting. Non-breeding male and female have grey-brown upperparts and buffish-white underparts; best told by red bill, red rump, and white tips to wing-coverts and tertials. Juvenile lacks red in plumage; buff wing-bars and tertial fringes, pink bill-base, and pink legs and feet help separate from juvenile munias. **Voice** Song is a weak, high-pitched warble; calls include a thin *teei* and a variety of high-pitched chirps and squeaks. **HH** Tall wet grassland, reedy marshes, sugarcane fields and tamarisk scrub near cultivation.



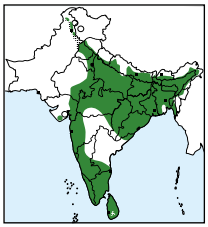
Green Avadavat *Amandava formosa* 10 cm

Resident. Widespread in C India. **ID** Male breeding has red bill, lime-green upperparts, bold black-and-white barring on flanks, and yellowish underparts. Female is similar but has duller greyish-green upperparts, less prominent grey-and-white barring on flanks, greyish throat and breast, and duller yellow vent and undertail-coverts. Juvenile lacks bright green in plumage; has red bill base, olive-green cast to upperparts, yellow undertail-coverts, and pink legs and feet. **Voice** Song is similar to that of Red Avadavat, but louder, ending in a prolonged trill; calls include a weak twittering *seee* or *swee swee*; also a *cheep* and *chirp*. **HH** Grass and low bushes, tall grassland, sugarcane fields and open forest with bushes, often near water.



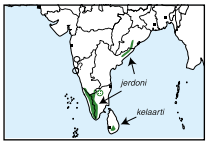
White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata* 10–11 cm

Resident. Widespread in subcontinent except NW. **ID** Dark breast, streaked upperparts and white rump. *L. s. striata* (peninsula and Sri Lanka) has unstreaked whitish belly, blackish face, throat and breast; juvenile similar but lacks streaking on upperparts, has buff fringes to breast. *L. s. acuticauda* (Himalayan foothills and NE) rufous-brown on side of head/neck, rufous-brown to whitish fringes on dark brown breast, and faint brownish streaking to greyish-buff belly; juvenile barred brown-buff on throat and breast. *L. s. fumigata* (Andamans) and *L. s. semistriata* (Nicobars) similar to *striata*: *fumigata* lacks upperpart streaks and has warm buff underparts; *semistriata* has pale fringes to breast, pale buff underparts. **Voice** *tr-tr-tr, prrit* and *brrt* calls. **HH** Open wooded areas.



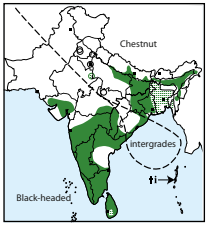
Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* 10.7–12 cm

Widespread resident; unrecorded in parts of C India and the northwest. **ID** Adult has chestnut-brown face, throat and upper breast, whitish underparts boldly scaled with black, and olive-yellow to rufous-orange on uppertail-coverts and edges of tail. Juvenile has uniform brown upperparts and buff to rufous-buff underparts, with whitish belly (probably indistinguishable from juvenile Black-headed). **Voice** Typical song is a series of *klik-klik-klik* or *tit-tit-tit* notes followed by a short series of whistles and churrs, and ending with longer *weeee*; contact calls include a repeated *tit-ti tit-ti* and a loud *kit-teee kit-teee*. **HH** Open secondary forest, bushes and cultivation.



Black-throated Munia *Lonchura kelaarti* 12 cm

Resident. Hills of SW and E India, and Sri Lanka. **ID** Has blackish face and bib, and pinkish-cinnamon sides of neck and breast. Adult nominate (Sri Lanka) has white underparts marked with brownish-black; juvenile has white throat with blackish barring, and diffuse brown and rufous-buff barring on underparts. Populations in peninsula (e.g. *jerdoni*) have unmarked cinnamon underparts contiguous with sides of breast; juvenile with warm buffish-brown underparts with diffuse buff streaking and mottling (lacks whitish rump of juvenile White-rumped). **Voice** High-pitched, nasal *tay* and a *chirp* call. **HH** Usually at higher altitudes than White-rumped. Forest clearings, scrub and grassland.

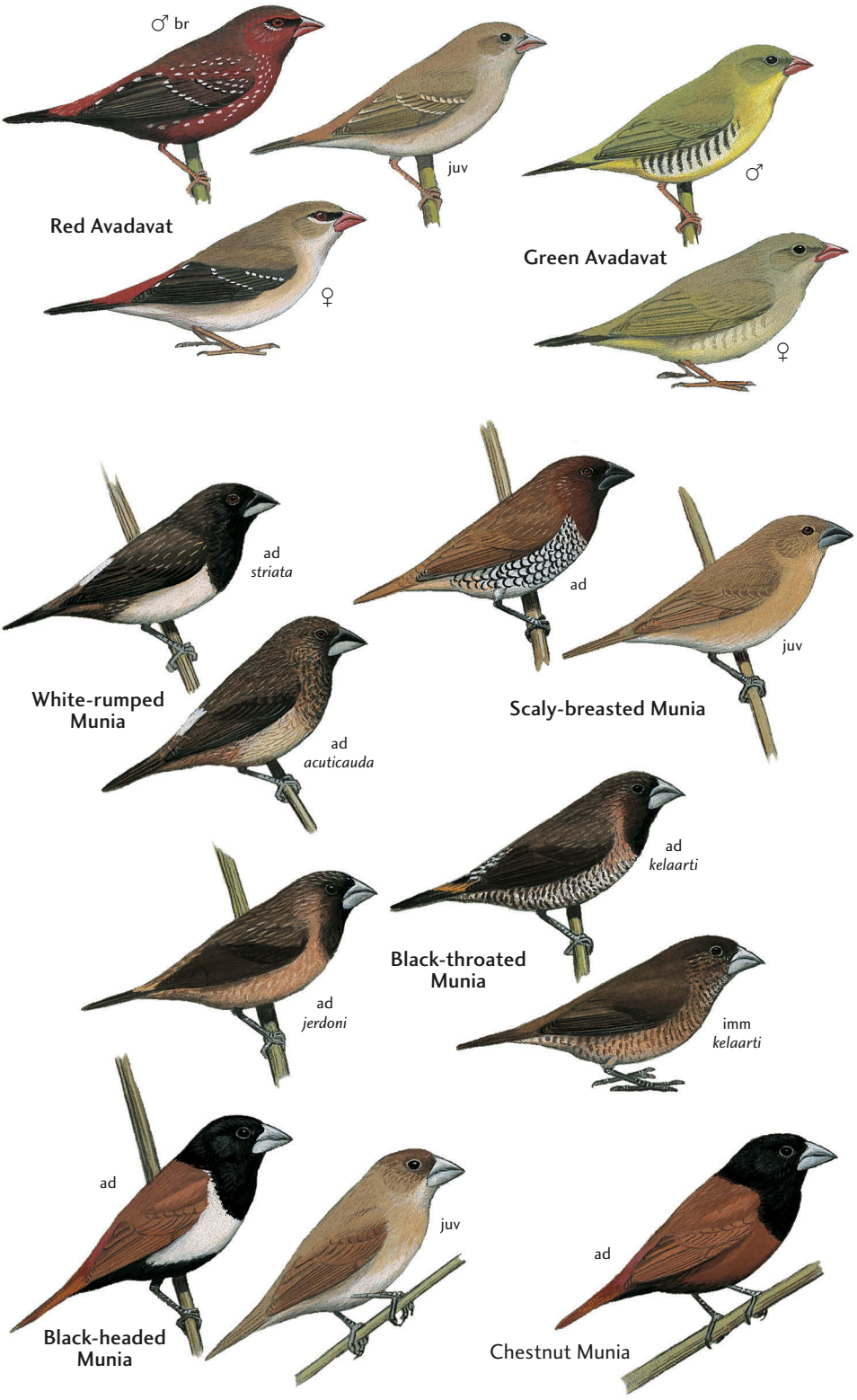


Black-headed Munia *Lonchura malacca* 11.5 cm

Resident in moist areas of peninsula. **ID** Adult has black head and upper breast, rufous-brown upperparts, and black belly centre and undertail-coverts. Lower breast and flanks are white. Juvenile has uniform brown upperparts and buff to whitish underparts. **Voice** Calls include a weak *peekt* and in flight a triple *chirp*. **HH** Marshy areas with tall grass or reeds. **AN** Tricoloured Munia.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura* (*malacca*) *atricapilla* 11 cm

Resident. N and E subcontinent. Intergrades with Black-headed in E peninsula. **ID** Similar to Black-headed but with chestnut lower breast and flanks. Juvenile is warmer buff on underparts than Black-headed. **Voice** Squeaky, nasal flight calls. **HH** Cultivation, gardens and grassland (drier habitats than Black-headed). **TN** Treated here as conspecific with Black-headed Munia *L. malacca.*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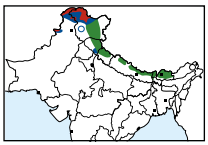
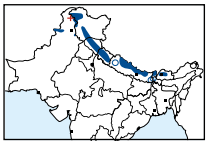


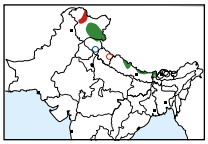
Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris* 15.5–17 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** From smaller Altai by comparatively uniform grey head and breast, diffusely streaked mantle, and (white-tipped) blackish coverts that form dark panel across wing. Has chestnut streaking on flanks but, unlike on Altai, streaks usually merge so flanks appear wholly chestnut. Both species show white or buffish tips to tail feathers in flight. Juvenile has adult wing pattern, but dark mottling on crown and nape, and dark brown streaking on buffish underparts. **HH** Breeds in alpine zone on open stony slopes, rocky pastures; near upland villages in winter.



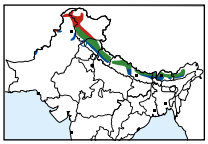
Altai Accentor *Prunella himalayana* 15–15.5 cm

Winter visitor. Himalayas. **ID** From larger Alpine by more extensive white throat and diffuse rufous spotting across breast (extending onto flanks). Typically has diffuse malar stripe of black spotting, and black gorget across lower throat, which can be well defined on some birds. Although variable, also often shows brownish ear-coverts and greyish supercilium. Like Alpine, has white tips to wing coverts, but usually lacks striking black panel across wing. Mantle is more heavily streaked, and can show prominent pale 'braces'. **HH** Grassy and stony slopes and plateaux.



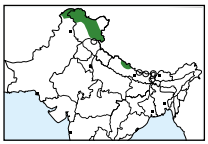
Robin Accentor *Prunella rubeculoides* 16–17 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Adult has rusty-orange band across breast. From Rufous-breasted Accentor by uniform brownish-grey head including throat, diffusely streaked upperparts, and unstreaked white belly (with limited streaking on flanks). Juvenile very similar to juvenile Rufous-breasted, but has more diffusely streaked underparts (with streaking hardly apparent on belly and flanks) and poorly defined supercilium. **HH** Breeds in dwarf scrub and sedge clumps; winters around upland villages.



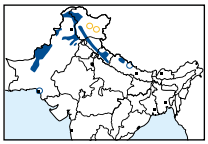
Rufous-breasted Accentor *Prunella strophiata* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Adult has rusty-orange band across breast. Best told from Robin Accentor by striking head pattern. Has prominent supercilium (whitish in front of eye, becoming broader and rufous behind), blackish ear-coverts and sides to crown, and whitish throat (with variable black streaking, typically forming diffuse malar stripe and band across lower throat). Also has black streaking on grey neck sides, and dark streaking on belly and flanks. Some variation exists, some birds with duller (streaked) and less extensive rufous on breast, and less well-marked head pattern. More heavily streaked underparts and more prominent supercilium (offset by brown ear-coverts and crown sides) help separate juvenile from juvenile Robin Accentor. **HH** Breeds in dwarf shrubberies in alpine and subalpine zone; winters in bushes in cultivation and scrub.



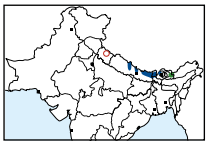
Brown Accentor *Prunella fulvescens* 14.5–15 cm

Resident. N Himalayas. **ID** Adult has broad whitish supercilium (contrasting with blackish ear-coverts), grey-brown upperparts with only very faint streaking, and pale orange-buff underparts with whiter throat (see vagrants for differences from Radde's Accentor). Juvenile has more heavily streaked upperparts with rufous-buff cast, brown mottling on supercilium and crown, browner ear-coverts (with less striking head pattern), and brown streaking across breast. Tibetan *sushkini* (NE) has more prominent brown streaking on upperparts and deeper buff underparts. **HH** Dry scrubby and rocky slopes; also around upland villages in winter.



Black-throated Accentor *Prunella atrogularis* 14.5–15 cm

Winter visitor. W Himalayas. **ID** Has broad white to orange-buff supercilium and submoustachial stripe, black chin and upper throat, blackish crown sides and ear-coverts, dark brown streaking on mantle, and orange-buff breast and flanks. In first-winter black throat can be partly obscured by pale fringes or, rarely, is completely absent. Heavy dark streaking on mantle and flanks, and mottled ear-coverts, help separate such birds from Brown. **HH** Bushes near cultivation, dry scrub.



Maroon-backed Accentor *Prunella immaculata* 16 cm

Resident in E Himalayas and winters in C Himalayas. **ID** Adult has grey head and breast, white scaling on forehead, yellow iris, maroon-brown mantle, and grey panel across wing. Juvenile has similar wing pattern to adult, but has streaked upperparts and underparts. **HH** Moist forest.

Alpine Accentor
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Altai Accentor
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Robin Accentor
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1st-winter?
Rufous-breasted Accentor
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Brown Accentor
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Maroon-backed Accentor
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Black-throated Accentor
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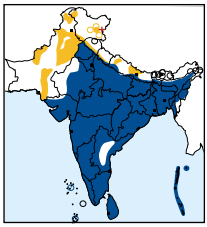
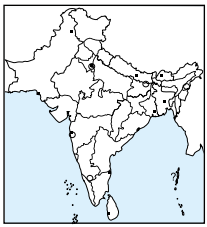


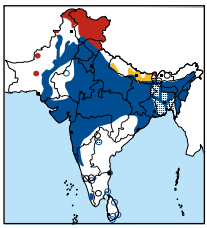
Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* 18 cm

Widespread in winter. **ID** Male breeding has olive-green upperparts and yellow underparts, with considerable subspecies variation in head coloration and patterning. Female in breeding plumage usually shows some features of breeding male. First-winter birds typically have brownish-olive upperparts, whitish underparts with variable yellowish wash, and buff or whitish median- and greater-covert wing-bars and fringes to tertials. Some first-winters, however, have greyish upperparts and whitish underparts (lacking any yellow) and have broader white wing-bars, and can closely resemble first-winter Citrine Wagtail. Compared with Citrine, grey-and-white first-winter Yellow typically show the following features: narrower white supercilium which does not extend around ear-coverts to join white of throat; grey forehead concolorous with crown: dark lores resulting in complete dark eye-stripe; pale base to lower mandible, and narrower white wing-bars. Juvenile has a dark malar stripe and band across breast. Five subspecies have been recorded in the subcontinent and breeding males are distinctive. *M. f. beema* has pale bluish-grey head, complete and distinct white supercilium, white chin, and usually a white submoustachial stripe contrasting with yellow throat; ear-coverts are grey or brown, usually with some white feathers. *M. f. leucocephala* has whole head to nape white, with a variable blue-grey cast on the ear-coverts and rear crown; chin is white, and throat yellow as rest of underparts. *M. f. feldegg* (including *melanogrisea*) has black head, lacking any supercilium, and usually a white chin and poorly defined submoustachial stripe contrasting with yellow throat. *M. f. thunbergi* (including *plexa*) has dark slate-grey crown with darker ear-coverts, lacking supercilium (although may show faint trace behind eye). *M. f. lutea* has mainly yellow head, with variable amounts of yellowish-green on crown and nape and ear-coverts (concolorous with mantle). *M. f. 'superciliaris'* is an intergrade, probably between *beema* and *feldegg*, and looks like the latter, but with a white supercilium. **Voice** Call is a loud *pseeu* (*beema*) or *tsreep* (*feldegg*). **HH** Damp grasslands. **AN** Western Yellow Wagtail (if Eastern is split).



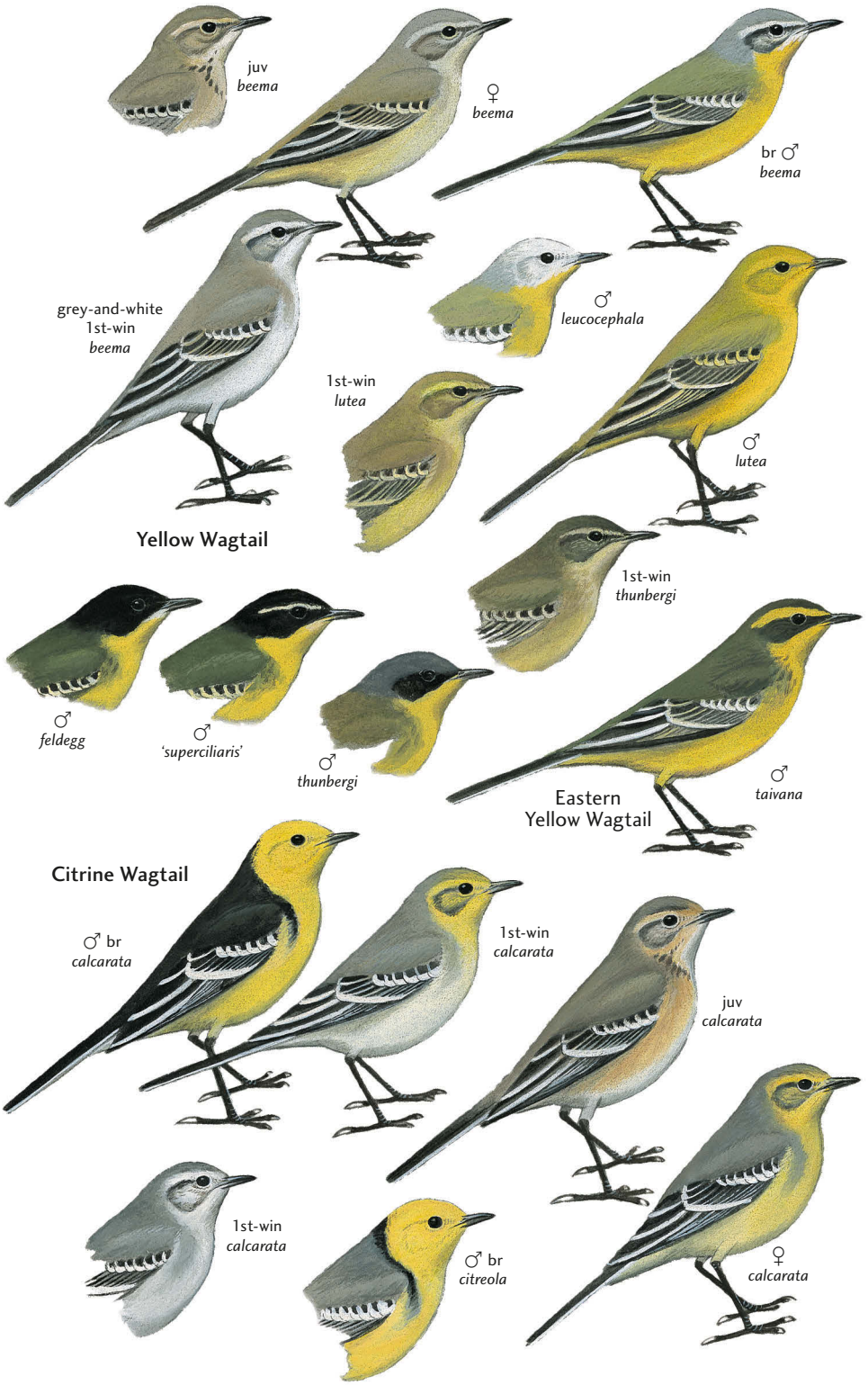
Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla* (*flava*) *tschutschensis* 18 cm

Rare winter visitor. **ID** *M. f. taivana* male differs from subspecies of 'Western' Yellow Wagtail in having olive-green crown, concolorous with mantle, and broad yellow supercilium contrasting with dark lores and ear-coverts. Females resemble duller males. First-winter birds typically resemble adult females but are greyer above with whitish supercilium and underparts, and pale yellow on belly. Many birds lack green and yellow, and are very similar to 'grey-and-white' 'Western' *beema* and *feldegg*. Later autumn birds have yellow supercilium and dark ear-coverts. **Voice** Call is sharper than *feldegg*: *tzreep* and not safely separable from that of Citrine Wagtail. **HH** Damp grasslands. **TN** Treated here as conspecific with Yellow Wagtail *M. flava*.



Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* 19 cm

Breeds in Baluchistan and Himalayas; widespread in winter. **ID** Adult male breeding is readily distinguished from Yellow by yellow head and underparts, black or grey mantle, and broad white tips to median and greater coverts. Female breeding and adult non-breeding have broad yellow supercilium that surrounds ear-coverts to join yellow of throat, and have greyish crown, nape, ear-coverts and mantle, and mainly yellow underparts. Some breeding females show yellow crown and ear-coverts and more closely resemble breeding males. Non-breeding females can be very pale buffish-yellow on underparts. Yellow surround to ear-coverts, pale lores, broad white wing-bars (although narrower when worn), greyish upperparts including rump and uppertail-coverts, white undertail-coverts, and greyish breast sides and flanks help separate female Citrine from Yellow. Juvenile lacks any yellow, and has brownish crown, ear-coverts and mantle, buffish supercilium (with dark upper edge) and surround to ear-coverts, and buffish-white underparts with gorget of black spotting across breast. First-winter has grey upperparts and is similar to some first-winter Yellow, but the following features help identification: has broader white supercilium, especially behind eye, which usually (although not always) surrounds ear-coverts; pale brown forehead; pale lores; all-dark bill; broader white wing-bars; and white undertail-coverts. Grey-and-white first-winter birds are confusable with some plumages of White, but lack black breast-band, have more prominent supercilium, and different call. By early November, first-winter Citrines have yellowish supercilium, ear-covert surround and throat. Two races in region with distinctive male plumages: *M. c. calcarata* (which breeds) has black upperparts and deeper yellow underparts; nominate has grey mantle and back with variable black collar. **Voice** Call is sharp *tzreep*, very similar to that of *M.* (*flava*) *tschutschensis*. **HH** Breeds high-altitude wet grassland; winters freshwater wetlands.


juv
beema
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beema
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grey-and-white
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beema
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leucocephala
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lutea
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lutea
Yellow Wagtail
1st-win
thunbergi
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feldegg
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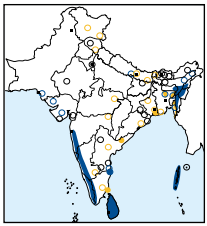
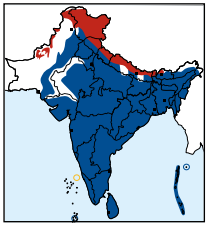


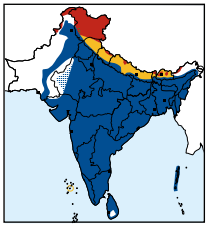
Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus* 18 cm

Mainly a winter visitor to NE and SW India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. **ID** A forest-dwelling wagtail; from other wagtails by combination of broad yellowish-white median- and greater-covert wing-bars and white patch on secondaries, double black breast-band (lower band broken at centre of breast), olive upperparts, white supercilium, and whitish underparts. Sexes alike. **Voice** Call is a strident metallic *pink* or *dzink-dzzt*. Song is a repetitive intense Great Tit-like *see-sawing*. **HH** Paths and clearings in tropical evergreen forest; also shady coffee and cardamom plantations, deciduous forest and mangroves in winter.



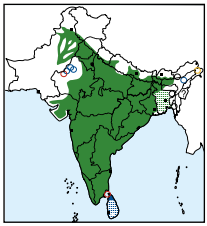
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* 19 cm

Breeds in Baluchistan and Himalayas; widespread in winter. **ID** Much longer-tailed than other wagtails (especially noticeable in flight). In all plumages, has white supercilium, grey upperparts and yellow vent and undertail-coverts. In flight, shows narrow white wing-bar and yellow rump. At rest, shows whitish fringes to tertials but otherwise wings are blackish, lacking broad fringes to coverts present on Yellow and Citrine. Breeding male has black throat, with rest of underparts yellow. Female breeding lacks well-defined black bib, but may show black mottling on chin/throat. Adult non-breeding and first-winter have white throat and pale yellowish to buffish-white underparts, with yellow vent. Juvenile much as non-breeding, but with brownish cast to upperparts, buffish supercilium, and dark mottling on breast sides. **Voice** Call is a sharp *stit* or *zee-fit*; song is a series of call-like notes. **HH** Breeds by mountain streams; winters by slower streams in lowlands and foothills.



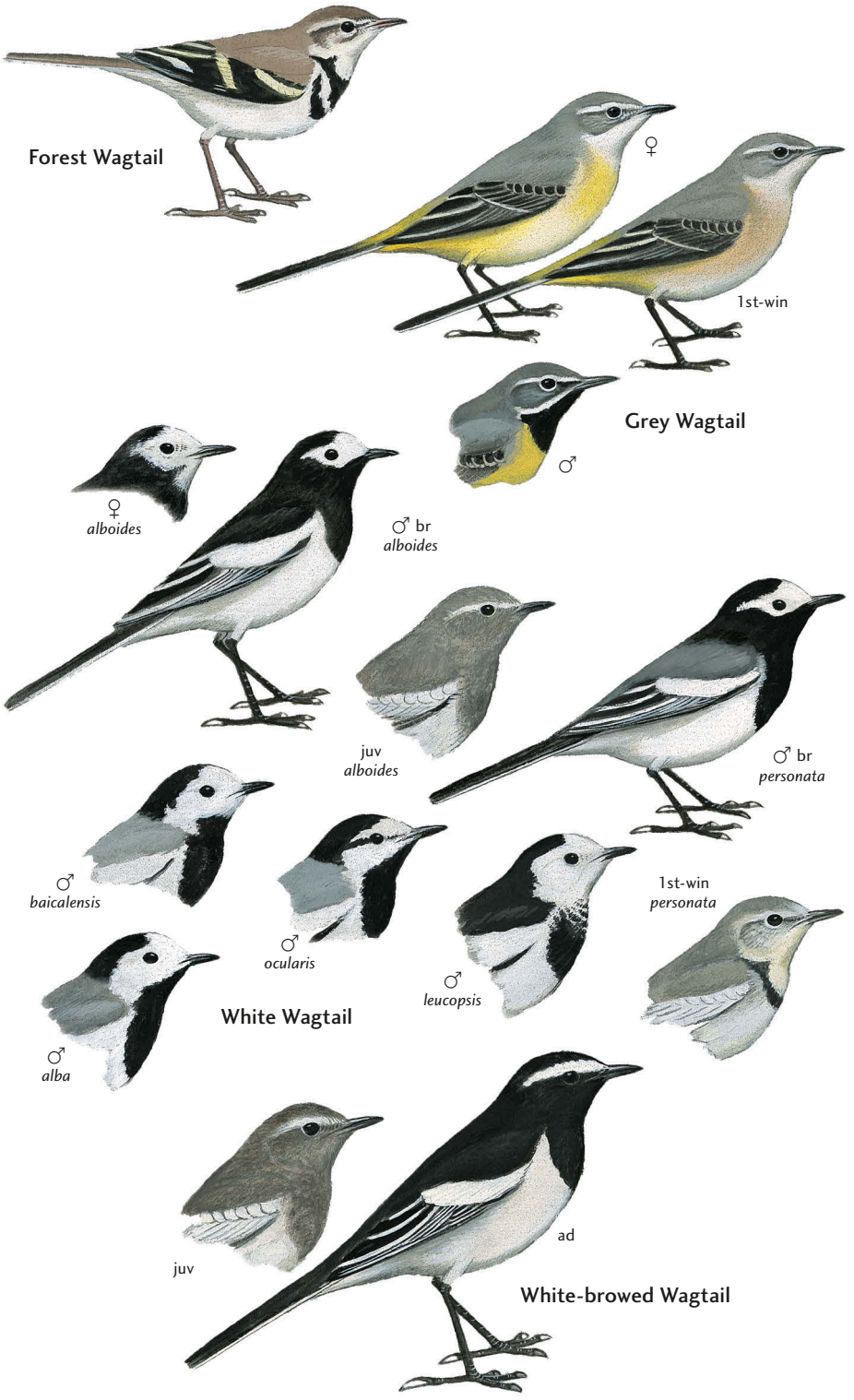
White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* 19 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; widespread in winter. **ID** Extremely variable, with black-and-white head pattern, grey or black mantle, and largely white to largely black wing-coverts. Black-backed birds are possibly confusable with White-browed, but that species is much larger and has a largely black head with a broad white supercilium. Subspecies variation among breeding adults (sexes are similar) is covered below. There is considerable variation in patterning of black on head and breast of non-breeding and first-winter birds, although in some subspecies non-breeding birds retain characteristics of breeding plumage. Juveniles of the two breeding subspecies have grey head, mantle and breast with whitish supercilium. *M. a. alba* (including *dukhunensis*) (widespread winter visitor) has grey mantle, white forehead and face, and black hind crown/nape, throat and breast. *M. a. personata* (breeding NW and widespread winter visitor) has grey mantle and black head and breast, with white forehead and face patch, giving rise to pale-masked appearance. *M. a. alboides* (breeding N and wintering more widely in N and E) is much as *personata*, but has black mantle and back, although upperparts of female are variably mixed with grey. *M. a. leucopsis* (winter visitor to N, NE and Andamans) has black mantle and back, but otherwise has head pattern as breeding male *alba* but with white throat. *M. a. ocularis* (uncommon visitor to N and NE) has grey mantle and back and is much as *alba*, but has a black eye-stripe in all plumages. *M. a. baicalensis* (widespread winter visitor) has grey mantle and back and is much as *alba*, but has white chin and upper throat contrasting with black breast. **Voice** Call is a loud *tslee-vit*; song is a lively twittering and chattering with call-like notes. **HH** Breeds by running waters in open country in hills and mountains; winters near water in open country.



White-browed Wagtail *Motacilla maderaspatensis* 21 cm

Widespread resident. **ID** Very large wagtail. Combination of black mantle and black head with white supercilium separates it from all subspecies of White. Sexes are similar, and shows no variation in non-breeding plumage. First-winter is similar, but with greyer crown and mantle. Juvenile has brownish-grey head, mantle and breast, with white supercilium. **Voice** Call is a distinctive, loud *chiz-zat*. Song is a clear, high-pitched jumble of loud, pleasant whistling notes. **HH** Banks of rivers, pools, lakes, canals and irrigation barrages.


Forest Wagtail
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1st-win
Grey Wagtail
♂
♀
alboides
♂ br
alboides
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alboides
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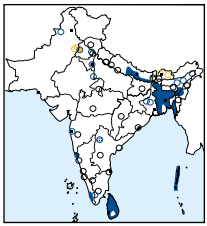
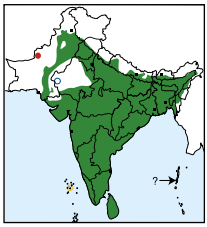
personata
♂
baicalensis
♂
ocularis
♂
leucopsis
1st-win
personata
White Wagtail
♂
alba
juv
ad
White-browed Wagtail



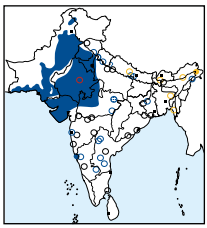
Richard's Pipit *Anthus richardi* 17 cm

Widespread winter visitor. **ID** Large size, upright stance, larger bill, longer legs and hind-claw, and call are best features from otherwise similar Paddyfield Pipit; when flushed, typically gains height and distance with deep undulations. **Voice** Loud, explosive *schreep* call. **HH** Moist grassland and cultivation.



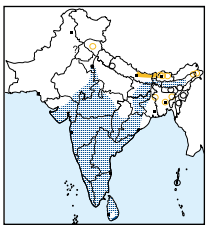
Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* 15 cm

Widespread resident, except in parts of NE and NW subcontinent. **ID** Smaller than Richard's, with different call; when flushed, has comparatively weak flight. Juvenile/1st-winter Tawny can appear very similar, but lores of Paddyfield often pale (but can be dark), and shows warm ginger-buff wash across breast and down flanks (underparts more uniform cream-white on Tawny); flight call differs. *A. r. waitei* (NW) paler sandy-grey on the upperparts than widespread nominate, and less heavily streaked above and below (very similar to Tawny). *A. r. malayensis* (S peninsula and Sri Lanka) darker and more heavily streaked. **Voice** *Chip-chip-chip* call. **HH** Short grassland.



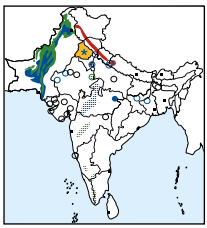
Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* 16 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Adult and first-winter have plain or only very faintly streaked upperparts and unstreaked or only very lightly streaked breast. Juvenile plumage can be retained until midwinter, and upperparts and breast are noticeably streaked. Subtle plumage differences from Paddyfield are dark lores and eye-stripe contrasting with supercilium, which tends to be broader and square-ended, more uniform buffish-white underparts. **Voice** Loud *tchilip* call is distinctive, but softer *chep* similar to calls of Paddyfield and Blyth's. **HH** Stony semi-desert and fallow cultivation.



Blyth's Pipit *Anthus godlewskii* 16.5 cm

Widespread winter visitor except in parts of NW, N and E India. **ID** Compared with Richard's, very subtle differences are slightly smaller size and more compact appearance, shorter tail, shorter hind claw, shorter and more pointed bill, shorter legs, and call. Shape of centres to adult buff-fringed median coverts distinctive (square-shaped black centres with broad pale buff tips; centres diffuse and more triangular in shape in Richard's). Best distinctions from Paddyfield Pipit are call, larger size, and patterning of adult median coverts (Paddyfield is as Richard's Pipit). **Voice** Wheezy *spzeeu* call. **HH** Grassland and cultivation.



Long-billed Pipit *Anthus similis* 20 cm

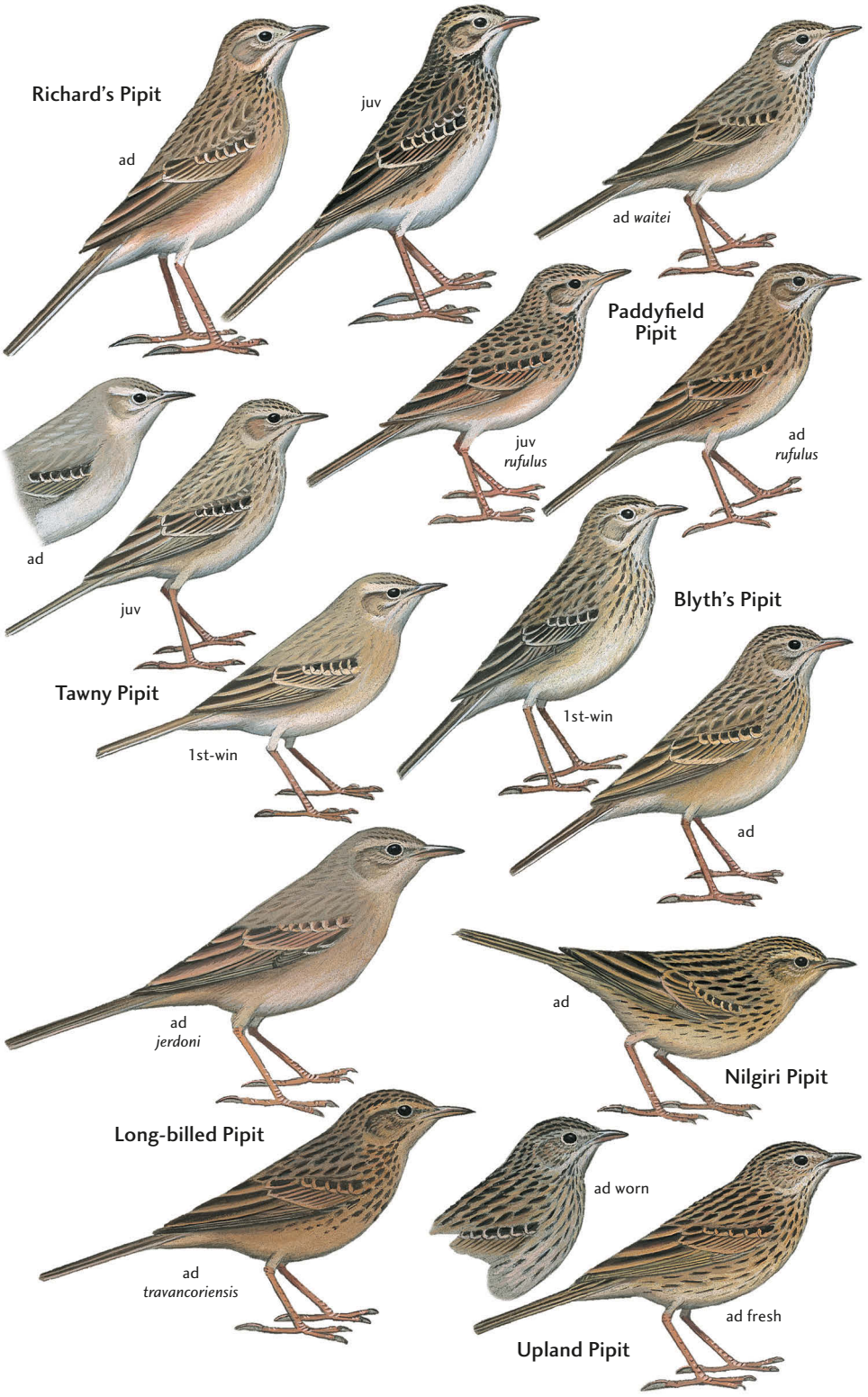
Resident. Hills of Pakistan and India, and W Himalayan foothills; also N plains in winter. **ID** Considerably larger than Tawny, with large bill and shorter-looking legs. Like Tawny has dark lores. *A. s. decaptus* (NW) most similar to Tawny in colour, but bill darker, upperparts darker and greyer, lacks distinct dark malar and moustachial, and has warmer buff underparts. *A. s. jerdoni* (N subcontinent) more distinct, with deeper orange-buff underparts, rufous fringes to tertials and coverts, and rufous-buff outer edge to tail. *A. s. similis* and *A. s. travancoriensis* of the peninsula have darker grey-brown upperparts and warm rufous-buff underparts; breast more heavily streaked. **Voice** Call a deep *chup*, and loud ringing *che-vlee*. **HH** Breeds rocky slopes; winters dry scrub.

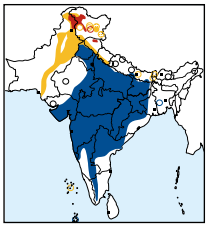
Nilgiri Pipit *Anthus nilghiriensis* 17 cm

Resident. SW Indian hills. **ID** Large, heavily streaked pipit. Compared with Paddyfield, has shorter tail, more heavily streaked upperparts, streaked upper belly and flanks, and lacks malar stripe and patch. **Voice** Call a weak *see-see*, quite unlike Paddyfield's. **HH** Grassy slopes.

Upland Pipit *Anthus sylvanus* 17 cm

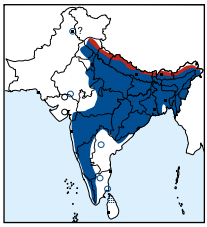
Resident. Pakistan hills and Himalayas. **ID** Large, heavily streaked pipit with short and broad bill, and rather narrow, pointed tail feathers. Fine black streaking on underparts, whitish supercilium; ground colour of underparts varies from warm buff (fresh plumage) to rather cold and grey (worn plumage). **Voice** Call is a sparrow-like chirp. **HH** Rocky and grassy slopes.


Richard's Pipit
ad
juv
ad *waitei*
Paddyfield Pipit
juv *rufulus*
ad *rufulus*
ad
juv
Tawny Pipit
1st-win
Blyth's Pipit
1st-win
ad
ad *jerdoni*
Long-billed Pipit
ad
Nilgiri Pipit
ad worn
ad *travancoriensis*
ad fresh
Upland Pipit



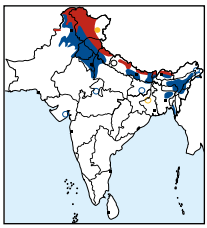
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* 15 cm

Resident and winter visitor. Breeds in NW Himalayas; widespread in winter; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Buffish-brown to greyish ground colour to upperparts (lacking greenish-olive cast of Olive-backed Pipit), and buffish edges to wing feathers (edges greenish-olive in Olive-backed). Head pattern typically less prominent, although can appear similar. *A. t. haringtoni*, which breeds in NW, generally colder and greyer than widespread wintering nominate. **Voice** Call is a harsher *teez* than Olive-backed's, although there is much overlap; song is louder and far-carrying, ending in finch-like trill *chik-chik.....chia-chia-wich-wich-tsee-a-tsee-a tsse-a*. **HH** Breeds on grassy slopes at tree line; winters in fallow cultivation and open country.



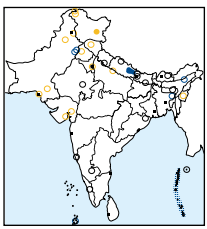
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* 15 cm

Breeds in Himalayas; widespread in winter, except NW and SE. **ID** Greenish-olive cast to upperparts and edges to wing feathers. Has more striking head pattern than Tree, with more prominent supercilium (buffish in front of eye and white behind), stronger dark eye-stripe and shows distinct whitish spot and blackish patch on rear ear-coverts (lacking on Tree). Worn upperparts become more greyish-olive, and breast loses warm buff wash; separation from Tree more difficult when worn. *A. h. yunnanensis*, a widespread winter visitor, much less heavily streaked on upperparts than the nominate (Tree Pipit has a well-streaked mantle). **Voice** Weak *see* call, fainter than Tree's; song is faster and higher-pitched. **HH** Open forest.



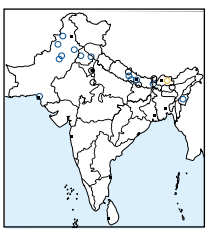
Rosy Pipit *Anthus roseatus* 15 cm

Breeds in high Himalayas; winters in plains and foothills in N subcontinent. **ID** Always has boldly streaked upperparts, olive cast to mantle, and olive to olive-green edges to wing feathers. Adult breeding has mauve-pink wash to underparts with irregular black spotting on breast and flanks; pinkish to buff supercilium is very prominent, with broad dark eye-stripe and moustachial stripe, and whitish eye-ring. Female is less pink below with heavier breast streaking than male. In non-breeding plumage, heavily streaked underparts and dark lores help separate from Water and Buff-bellied Pipits. **Voice** Call a weak *seep-seep*. **HH** Breeds on slopes above tree line; winters in marshes, damp grassland and cultivation.



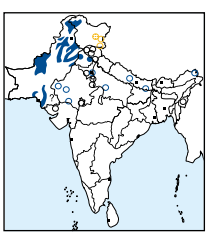
Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* 15 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly N subcontinent. **ID** Adult has reddish throat and upper breast, which tend to be paler on female and on autumn/winter birds. First-winter is similar in coloration to nominate Tree, but typically has more heavily streaked upperparts, often with pale 'braces', heavily streaked rump, well-defined and broad white wing-bars, strongly contrasting blackish centres and whitish fringes to tertials, more pronounced dark malar patch, and more boldly streaked breast and (especially) flanks. Very different call, browner coloration to upperparts, and absence of olive in wing help separate from non-breeding Rosy. **Voice** Call a drawn-out *seeeeee*. **HH** Marshes, grassland and stubble.



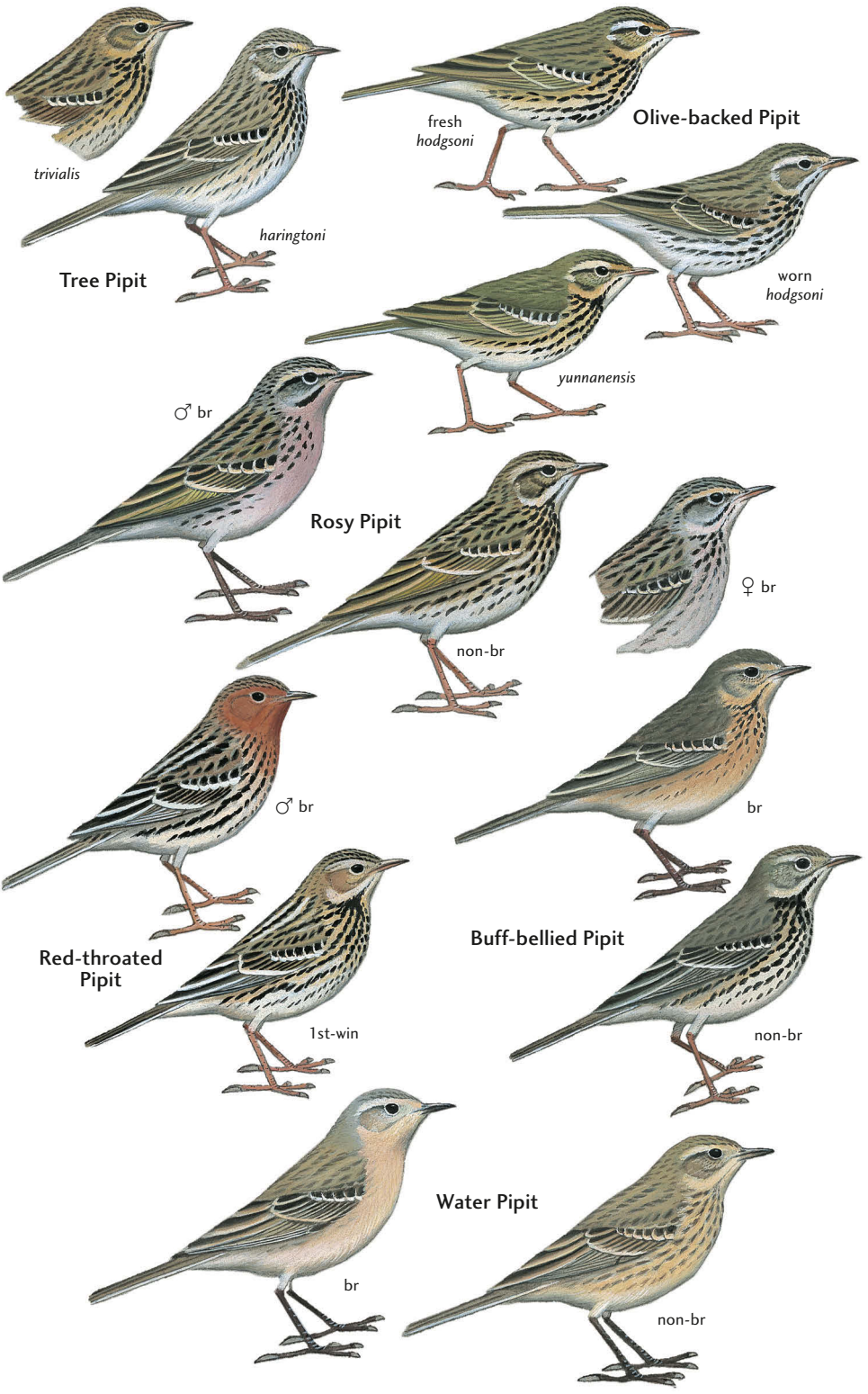
Buff-bellied Pipit *Anthus rubescens* 15 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan, N India and Nepal. **ID** Lightly streaked upperparts, lack of olive-green on wing, and pale lores help separate it from Rosy in all plumages. In breeding plumage, has deeper orange-buff wash to underparts than Water; breast and flanks are more heavily (but irregularly) spotted with black and has more pronounced malar stripe and malar patch, although there is some overlap (some Buff-bellied being more lightly streaked). In non-breeding plumage, compared with Water, has darker greyish-brown upperparts which are slightly less prominently streaked; black malar stripe and patch, and bold black spotting/streaking on breast and flanks, are much more pronounced. **Voice** Call much as Rosy's. **HH** Marshes, wet grassland and cultivation.



Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* 15 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan, N India and Nepal. **ID** In all plumages, has lightly streaked upperparts, lacks olive-green on wing, has dark legs, and usually has pale lores; underparts less heavily marked than on Rosy and Buff-bellied Pipits. Orange-buff wash to supercilium and underparts in breeding plumage. **Voice** Call is similar to that of Rosy's, but perhaps thinner and sharper. **HH** Marshes, wet grassland and cultivation.


trivialis
haringtoni
Tree Pipit
fresh
hodgsoni
Olive-backed Pipit
worn
hodgsoni
yunnanensis
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Rosy Pipit
non-br
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♂ br
Red-throated
Pipit
1st-win
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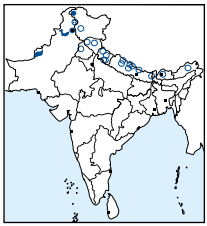
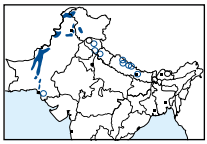
Buff-bellied Pipit
non-br
br
Water Pipit
non-br



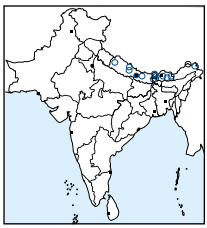
Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* 16 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan hills and N Himalayas. **ID** Double whitish wing-bars in all plumages. Lacks white rump of Brambling. Male has blue-grey crown and nape, orange-pink face and underparts, and maroon-brown mantle; brighter in breeding plumage. Female is duller than female Brambling, with greyish-brown upperparts and dull greyish-buff underparts. **Voice** Metallic *chink* call. **HH** Upland fields with nearby bushes and forest.



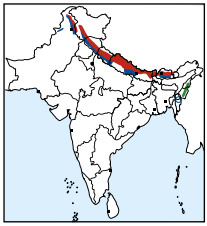
Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* 16 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan hills and N Himalayas. **ID** Male non-breeding and female from Common Chaffinch by orange breast and flanks (contrasting with white belly), orange wing-bar, and white rump. Head and mantle of male become blacker towards breeding season as feather fringes are lost with wear, and bill becomes black. **Voice** Deep nasal *zweee* call. **HH** Upland fields and forest.



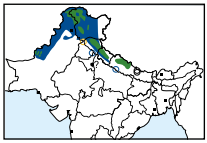
Tibetan Serin *Serinus thibetanus* 12 cm

Winters in C and E Himalayas (and may breed). **ID** Lacks yellow panels on wing in all plumages. Adult male has olive-green upperparts, yellow supercilium and border behind ear-coverts, yellowish-green rump, and yellow underparts. Wing and tail feathers broadly edged yellowish-green. Female has blackish streaking on darker greyish-green upperparts, more clearly defined wing-bars, paler yellow throat and breast, and whitish belly (with black flank- and breast-streaking). Juvenile duller green, tinged brownish-buff on upperparts, with duller rump, buff fringes to greater coverts, paler (more heavily streaked) underparts. **Voice** Soft chattering interspersed with a wheezy *twang*. **HH** Breeds mixed forest; winters in alders. **TN** Formerly placed in *Carduelis*. **AN** Tibetan Siskin.



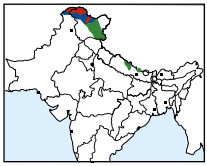
Yellow-breasted Greenfinch *Carduelis spinoides* 14 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Male has blackish-olive upperparts, yellow supercilium and crescent behind ear-coverts, yellow underparts and rump, and broad yellow panels across wing. Adult female has paler olive upperparts with faint dark streaking, less distinct head pattern, and duller yellow underparts. Juvenile has heavy streaking on buffish-olive upperparts and buffish-yellow underparts; shows faint yellowish supercilium and submoustachial stripe. *C. s. heinrichi* (Nagaland and Manipur) has darker upperparts, and lacks yellow submoustachial stripe and crescent below eye of nominate. **Voice** Twittering followed by a harsh *tsswee*. **HH** Open forest, shrub and cultivation with nearby trees.



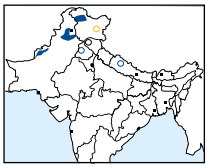
European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* 13–15.5 cm

Resident and winter visitor. Pakistan hills and W and C Himalayas. **ID** Adult of *C. c. caniceps* is largely grey-brown with red face, yellow panel across black wings with white on tertials, and white rump. Juvenile lacks red face of adult; upperparts and breast are faintly streaked, and has buffish tips to coverts and tertial markings. **Voice** Liquid twittering call. **HH** Upland cultivation, shrubberies and open forest.



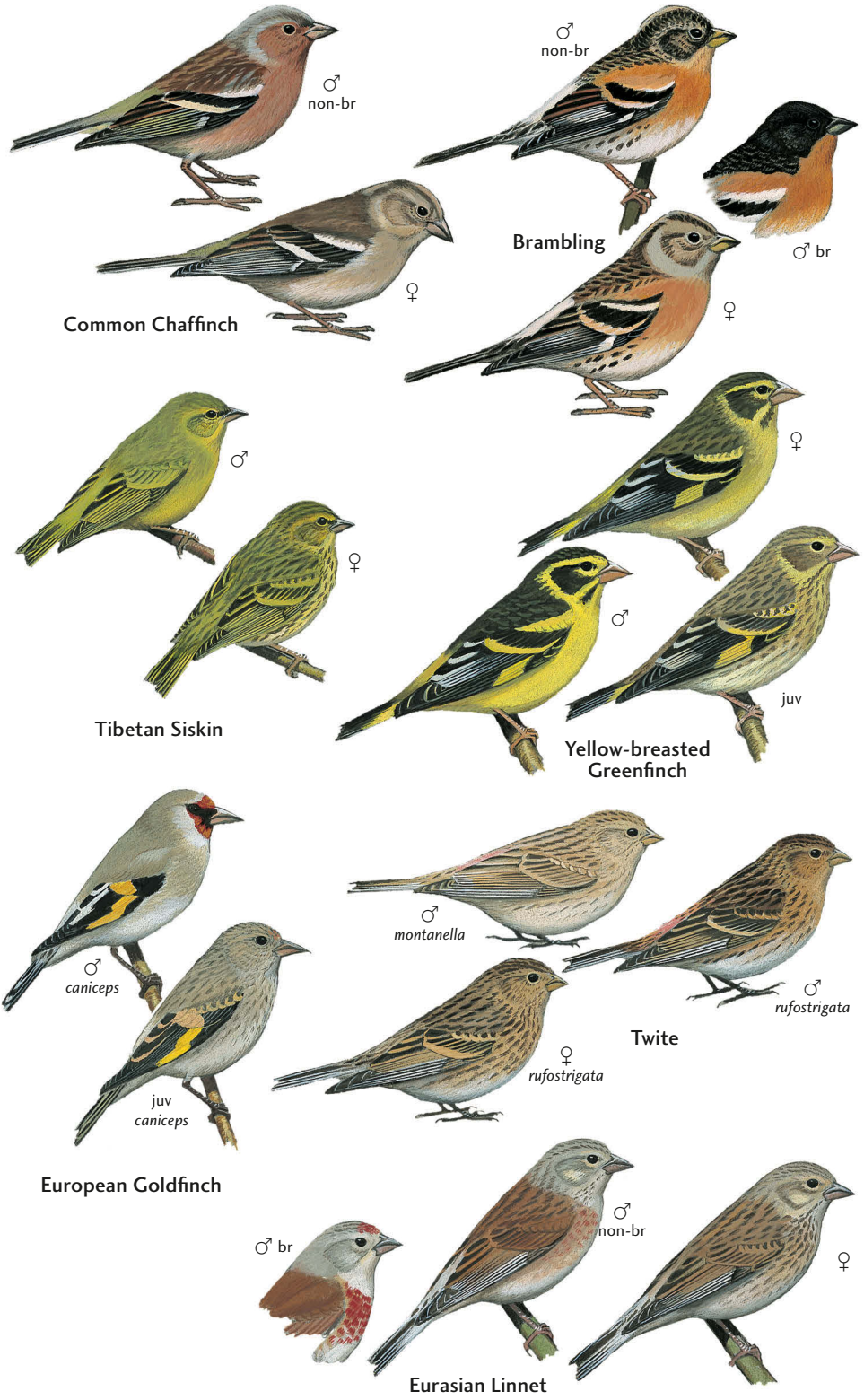
Twite *Carduelis flavirostris* 13–13.5 cm

Resident. N Himalayas. **ID** Rather plain and heavily streaked, with buff wing-bars and white edges to wings and tail. Small bill is yellowish (black in breeding male). Male has pinkish rump (obscured in non-breeding plumage). *C. f. montanella* (westernmost Himalayas) is sandy-buff in coloration, and is only lightly streaked on breast and flanks. *C. f. rufostrigata* (Ladakh eastwards) is much darker and more heavily streaked, and the throat and breast are a rich buff. **Voice** A weak, nasal twittering interspersed with a series of wheezy notes. **HH** High-altitude semi-desert.



Eurasian Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* 13–14 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly Pakistan Himalayas. **ID** From Twite by greyish crown, ear-coverts and nape, browner mantle, whitish rump, and larger greyish bill. Male has chestnut-brown mantle and wing-coverts, with variable dark streaking on mantle. In breeding plumage, crown, nape and ear-coverts are purer grey and has crimson on forehead and breast. Female and first-winter have duller brown mantle, with dark brown streaking, and dark streaking on breast and flanks. **Voice** Rapid *chi-chi-chi-chi* call. **HH** Open stony slopes and upland meadows. **AN** Common Linnet.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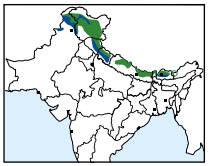
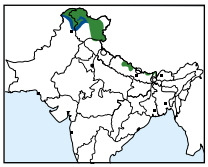
Eurasian Linnet



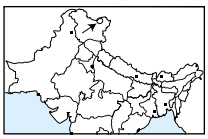
Plain Mountain Finch *Leucosticte nemoricola* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Mantle boldly streaked with pale 'braces'. Median coverts are dark-centred, with bold white fringes, and greater coverts are tipped with white (forming well-defined wing-bar) with variable dark central panel. Unstreaked grey rump contrasts with mantle/back, and has prominent white tips to uppertail-coverts. Tertials and inner secondaries are edged with white, forming narrow panel on closed wing, but this is less prominent than on Brandt's Mountain Finch. Juvenile is a warmer rufous-buff on head, mantle and underparts than adult, and mantle is less heavily streaked; has rufous-buff fringes to tertials and tips to coverts. First-winter retains rufous on head. **HH** Breeds on alpine slopes; winters in open forest and upland cultivation.



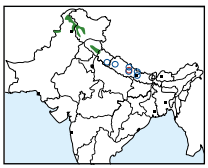
Brandt's Mountain Finch *Leucosticte brandti* 16.5–19 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** From Plain in all plumages by unstreaked to lightly streaked mantle, and rather pale and comparatively uniform wing-coverts. Has broad white edges to primary coverts and to tertials/secondaries, which form more striking white panel on wing than Plain, and has more prominent white edges to outer rectrices. Adult breeding has sooty-black head and nape; male has pink on rump (indistinct on female). Shows less black on head in non-breeding plumage. Juvenile and first-summer have buffish head and mantle, and tertials and wing-coverts have warm buff edgings. **HH** Alpine slopes.



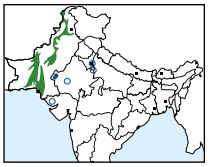
Sillem's Mountain Finch *Leucosticte sillemi* 16 cm

Status uncertain. NW trans–Himalayas. **ID** Finer bill and longer wings than Brandt's. Adult has tawny head and breast (recalling juvenile Brandt's), and has whitish uppertail-coverts. Lacks pale band across greater coverts of Brandt's. Juvenile is more heavily streaked on head, mantle and breast compared with juvenile Brandt's. **HH** Unknown.



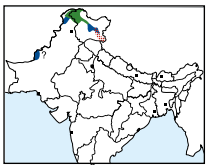
Spectacled Finch *Callacanthis burtoni* 17–18 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Wings are black, with bold whitish tips to greater coverts and flight feathers, and has white tip to black tail. Male has pinkish-red 'spectacles', maroon-brown mantle, and pinkish-red wash to underparts. 'Spots' on wing-coverts are pinkish-white. Female has paler head with orange-yellow 'spectacles', olive-brown mantle, and buffish-brown underparts with yellowish wash to breast. Juvenile has buff eye-patch. **HH** Open mixed forest.



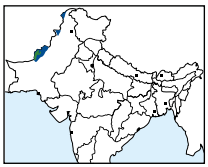
Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus* 14–15 cm

Resident in Pakistan; winter visitor to NW India. **ID** Stocky, with very stout bill. From Mongolian by comparatively uniform wings and tail, stouter bill, and distinctive nasal calls. Breeding male has reddish bill, pinkish face and wash to underparts, pink edges to wing and tail feathers, and pink rump. Non-breeding male and female are duller with yellow bill. Juvenile as female, but lacking any pink; has buff fringes to tertials and greater coverts. **HH** Dry rocky hills and semi-desert.



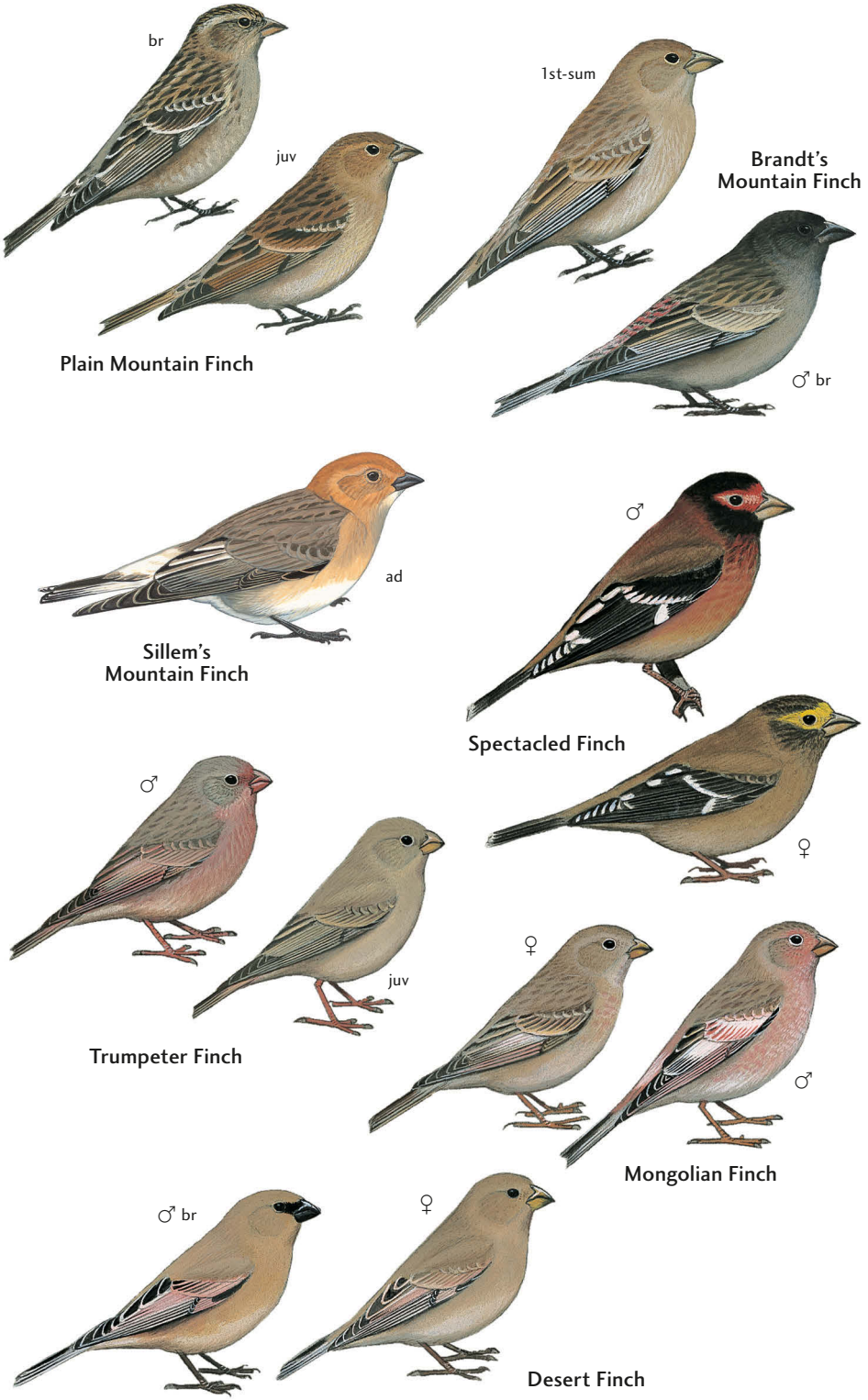
Mongolian Finch *Eremopsaltria mongolica* 14–15 cm

Resident in Pakistan and Ladakh; winter visitor to Baluchistan and Nepal. **ID** Similar to Trumpeter, but usually shows pronounced whitish or buffish panels on wing, as well as more pronounced pale edges to tail. Crown and mantle are usually more prominently streaked. Looks slimmer and larger-tailed, and has smaller and less stout bill. Breeding male has pinkish-red on head and breast, pink edges to greater coverts and primaries, prominent white panels on wing, and pink rump. Non-breeding male and female have less pink in plumage and pale wing panels are less distinct in female. Juvenile lacks pink in plumage and has buff fringes to tertials and greater coverts. **HH** Dry stony slopes. **TN** Formerly placed in *Bucanetes*.



Desert Finch *Rhodospiza obsoleta* 14.5–15 cm

Resident. Baluchistan. **ID** In all plumages has pink edges to wing-coverts and secondaries, white edges to remiges and outer edges to tail, and black centres to tertials. Adult breeding has black bill (yellowish in non-breeding plumage). Male has black lores. Female has duller wing pattern than male. Juvenile has duller wings with buffish edges to coverts and tertials. **HH** Dry steppe with scattered forest.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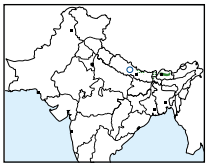
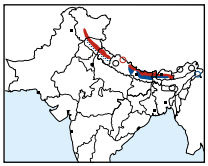


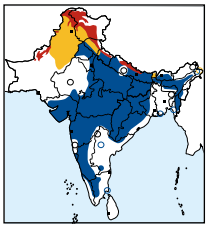
Blanford's Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubescens* 15 cm

Resident. C and E Himalayas. **ID** Slimmer bill than Common Rosefinch; male is duller red on head and underparts (latter with greyish cast). First-summer male is browner, especially on mantle, wings and underparts. Female from female Dark-breasted Rosefinch by stouter bill, more uniform wings (lacking prominent pale wing-bars and tips to tertials), more uniform upperparts, reddish or bright olive cast to rump, and paler underparts. **Voice** A short, thin, high-pitched *sip* call. **HH** Glades in coniferous and mixed forest.



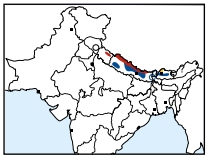
Dark-breasted Rosefinch *Carpodacus nipalensis* 15–16 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Slim, with slender bill. Male has maroon-brown breast-band, dark eye-stripe, and maroon-brown upperparts. Forehead, supercilium, throat and belly are bright pink. Female lacks supercilium, and has unstreaked underparts, diffusely streaked mantle, buffish wing-bars and tips to tertials, and olive-brown rump and uppertail-coverts. First-summer male is similar to female, but has maroon-brown upperparts. **Voice** Calls include a plaintive wailing double whistle. **HH** Breeds in high-altitude shrubberies; winters in forest clearings.



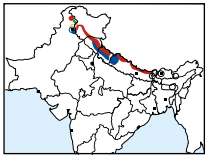
Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* 14.5–15 cm

Breeds in Baluchistan and Himalayas; widespread in winter; unrecorded in Sri Lanka. **ID** Compact, with short, stout bill. Male has red head, breast and rump. Female and first-year male have streaked upperparts and underparts, rather plain face with beady black eye, and double wing-bar. Migrant nominate subspecies has less red in male, and female is less heavily streaked, compared with resident subspecies. **Voice** A distinctive, clear, rising *ooeet* call. **HH** Breeds in high-altitude shrubberies and open forest; winters in cultivation with bushes.



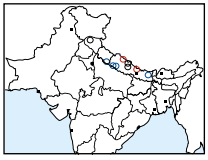
Beautiful Rosefinch *Carpodacus pulcherrimus* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Small, compact rosefinch. Male has lilac-pink supercilium, rump and underparts, cold pinkish-grey coloration to heavily streaked crown and mantle, and pronounced shaft streaking on underparts (especially flanks and undertail-coverts). **Voice** Calls include a soft *trip* and a soft twitter. **HH** Breeds in high-altitude shrubberies; winters on bush-covered slopes and cultivation with bushes.



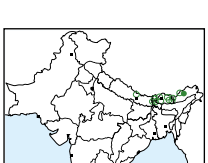
Pink-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus rodochroa* 14–15 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Small, compact rosefinch. Male has pink supercilium, rump and underparts, maroon-pink crown and ear-coverts, and pinkish-brown coloration to mantle. Female and first-year male have prominent buff supercilium contrasting with dark ear-coverts, brownish-buff coloration to mantle, tawny to rump, and strong tawny wash from breast to undertail-coverts. **Voice** Loud *per-lee* call. **HH** Breeds high-altitude shrub; winters oak forest.



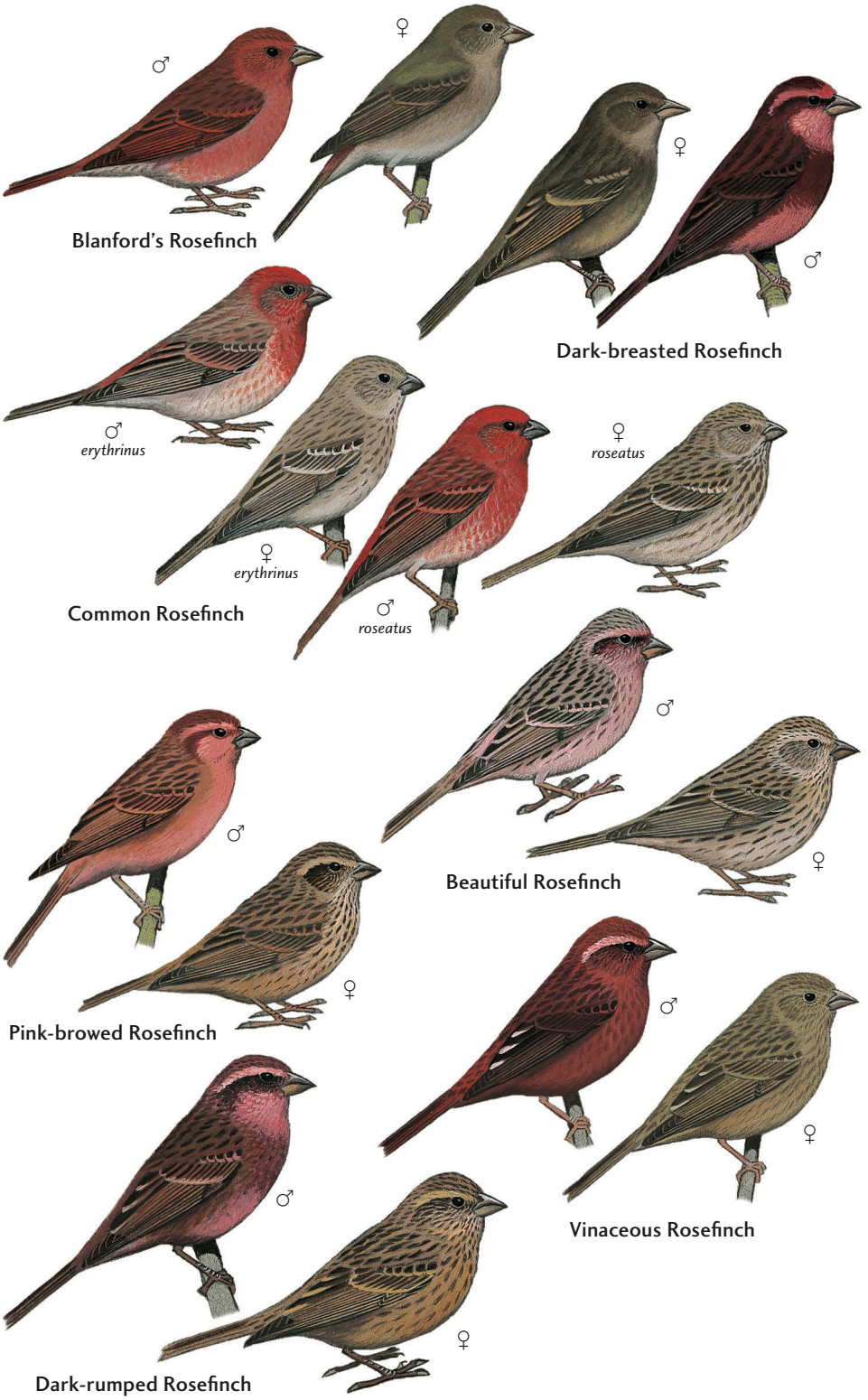
Vinaceous Rosefinch *Carpodacus vinaceus* 13–16 cm

Resident. Himalayas from Himachal Pradesh east to Nepal. **ID** Male is mainly dark crimson, with diffuse dark streaking on mantle. Has bright pink supercilium and pinkish-white tips to tertials. Female from other female rosefinches by absence of supercilium (plain-faced appearance), whitish tips to tertials (may be lacking when worn), and warm brownish-buff coloration to streaked underparts (almost concolorous with upperparts). **Voice** Calls include a hard *pwit*. **HH** Understorey in moist forest.



Dark-rumped Rosefinch *Carpodacus edwardsii* 16–17 cm

Resident. C and E Himalayas. **ID** Male confusable with Spot-winged, but pink tips to coverts and tertials much less prominent, lacks prominent pink on rump, and has dark breast and flanks. Female from Pink-browed by larger size, stockier appearance, stouter bill, darker brown upperparts and deeper brownish underparts (with breast tending to be shade darker than belly), while pale fringes to tertials have distinctly paler tip to outer edge (more even on Pink-browed). Pale tips to coverts and tertials are less prominent than on Spot-winged, and has darker (browner) underparts, less distinct supercilium and paler ear-coverts, and more finely and sparsely streaked throat and breast. 1st-sum male has pink wash to supercilium, ear-coverts and breast. **Voice** Abrupt, high-pitched, metallic *tswii* call. **HH** High-altitude shrub and open forest; favours rhododendron.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Blanford's Rosefinch
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Common Rosefinch
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Beautiful Rosefinch
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Pink-browed Rosefinch
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Vinaceous Rosefinch
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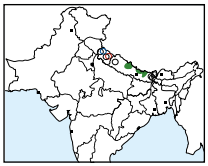
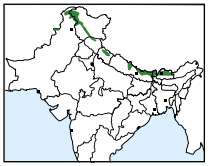
Dark-rumped Rosefinch



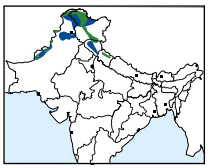
Spot-winged Rosefinch *Carpodacus rodopeplus* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas from Uttarakhand to Sikkim. **ID** Male has pink supercilium and underparts, maroon upperparts (splashed pink), and pinkish tips to wing-coverts and tertials. Female has prominent buff supercilium, buff tips to tertials, and fulvous underparts with bold streaking on throat and breast. Head pattern more striking than in female Dark-rumped; also has paler and more heavily streaked throat, and more prominent wing-bars and tips to tertials. **Voice** Nasal *churr-weeee* call. **HH** Breeds rhododendron shrub; winters forest understorey.



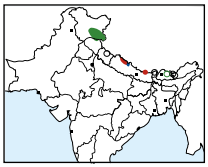
White-browed Rosefinch *Carpodacus thura* 17 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Large size and long-tailed appearance. Male has pink-and-white supercilium, pink rump and underparts, prominent pinkish median-covert wing-bar, and heavily streaked brown upperparts. Female and first-year male have prominent supercilium, heavily streaked underparts, and (heavily streaked) olive-yellow (female) or reddish-brown (first-year male) rump. Female nominate (C Himalayas) has ginger-brown throat and breast, with whitish coloration to cheeks and belly. Female *C. t. blythi* (W Himalayas) has colder grey-brown upperparts, less striking head pattern, and orange-buff wash to throat and breast; streaking on underparts is stronger than on Pink-browed, and shows contrast between buff breast and whiter belly. **Voice** Calls include a buzzing *deep-deep, deep-de-de-de-de*. **HH** Breeds in high-altitude shrub and open forest; winters on bushy hills.



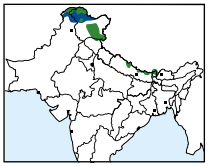
Red-mantled Rosefinch *Carpodacus rhodochlamys* 18 cm

Resident. Pakistan mountains and W Himalayas. **ID** Stockier than White-browed, with much larger bill. Male's crown and mantle are paler and greyer, with pinkish wash, and streaking on upperparts is less prominent. Pink of supercilium barely extends across forehead, and lacks prominent wing-bars of White-browed. Female best told by combination of large size and huge bill, pale grey coloration to (heavily streaked) upperparts including rump, indistinct supercilium weakly offset against greyish eye-stripe, and heavily streaked whitish underparts. **Voice** Rather metallic-toned twittering flight call. **HH** Breeds dry high-altitude shrub; winters forest.



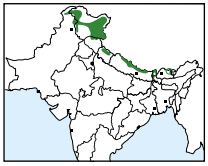
Streaked Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilloides* 19 cm

Resident. N Himalayas. **ID** Large with long tail. Male from Great by deeper crimson-pink head and underparts (with smaller white spots), prominently streaked upperparts, and dark centres to wing feathers. Female nondescript, lacking supercilium. From Great by darker grey upperparts with heavier streaking, more heavily streaked ear-coverts and underparts, and darker centers to wing-coverts and tertials. **Voice** Calls include a loud *twink*. **HH** High-altitude semi-desert.



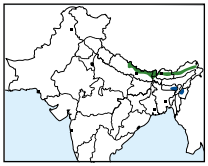
Great Rosefinch *Carpodacus rubicilla* 19–20 cm

Resident. N Himalayas. **ID** Large with long tail. Male from Streaked by paler rose-pink head and underparts, and paler sandy-grey upperparts which are only faintly streaked. Female and 1st-year male similar to female Streaked and Red-mantled, but have paler, sandy-brown upperparts (only faintly streaked), less heavily streaked ear-coverts and underparts, paler, more uniform wing-coverts and tertials, and unstreaked rump. In flight, both sexes show white edge to outer tail feathers (barely apparent on Streaked). **Voice** Loud *tooey tooey* call. **HH** High-altitude semi-desert.



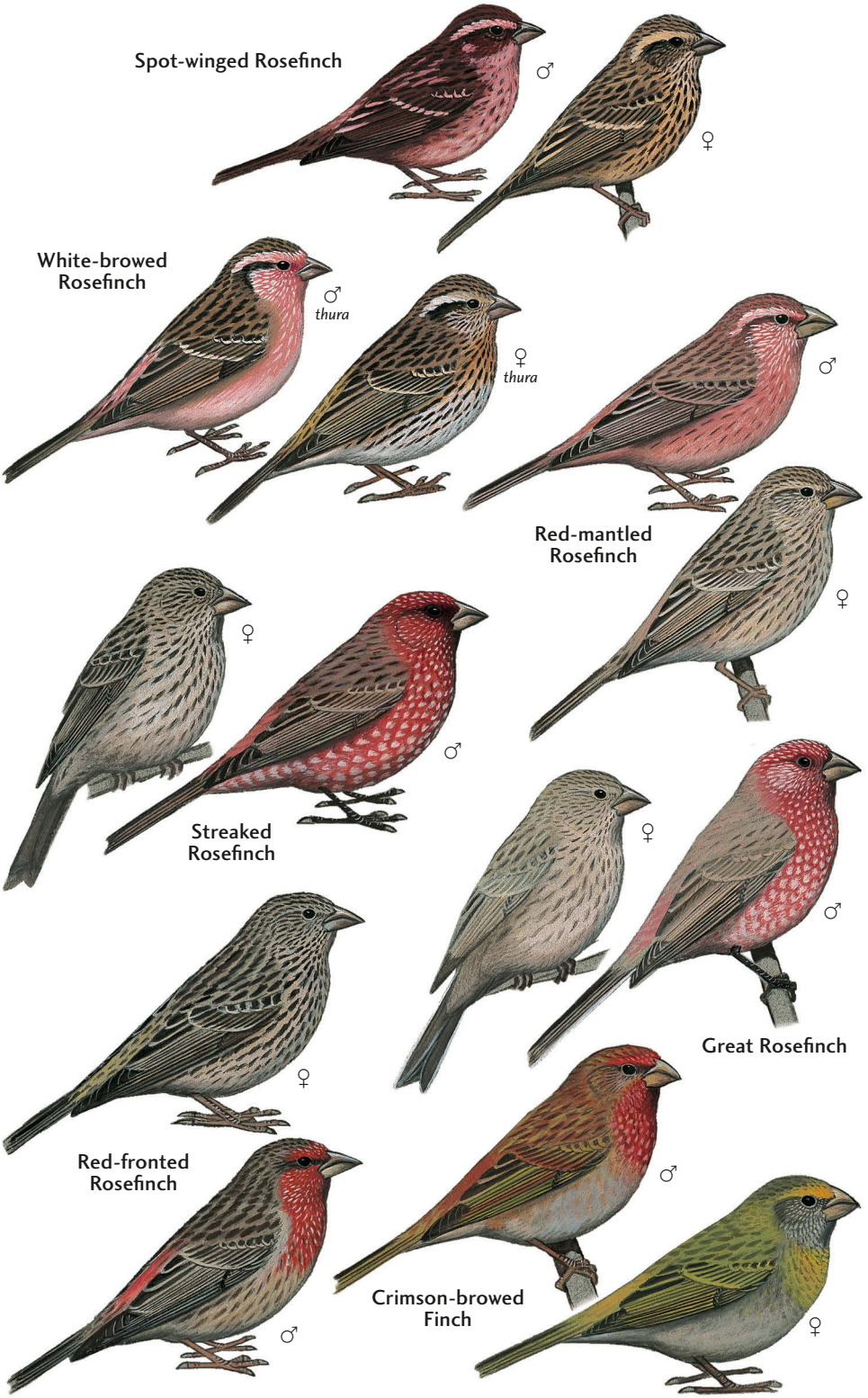
Red-fronted Rosefinch *Carpodacus puniceus* 20 cm

Resident. N Himalayas. **ID** Large size, conical bill and short tail. On male, red of plumage contrasts with brown crown, eye-stripe and upperparts. Female and first-year male lack supercilium, and have dark and heavily streaked upperparts; breast is variably washed with pale yellow, and rump and uppertail-coverts are more olive than back or are yellow. **Voice** Calls include a bulbul-like cheery whistle. **HH** High-altitude rocky slopes.



Crimson-browed Finch *Propyrrhula subhimachala* 19–20 cm

Resident in Himalayas and winters in NE India. **ID** Short, stubby bill. Male has red forehead, throat and upper breast, greenish coloration to upperparts, and greyish underparts. Female has olive-yellow forehead and supercilium, greyish belly and greenish-olive upperparts. **Voice** A melodic sparrow-like *chirp*. **HH** Breeds in high-altitude shrub; winters in forest undergrowth.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Crimson-browed Finch
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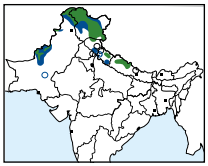
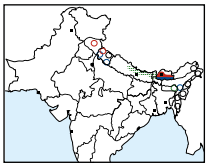


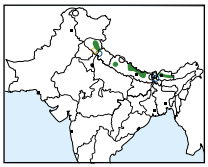
Red-fronted Serin *Serinus pusillus* 12.5 cm

Resident. Baluchistan mountains and W and C Himalayas. **ID** Male has scarlet forehead and largely black head and breast. Mantle and belly/flanks are boldly streaked with black, and washed with olive-yellow. Has buffish-orange wing-bars and olive-yellow rump/uppertail-coverts. Female is generally duller, with less red on forehead, and black of head and breast is browner. In fresh plumage (autumn/winter), black of head on both sexes is partly obscured by buff fringes and forehead is duller. Juvenile has cinnamon-brown crown, ear-coverts and throat, with crown lightly streaked; has buffish wing-bars, and (as adult) yellowish edges to wing and tail feathers. **Voice** A rapid, ringing *trillit-drillt* and a soft *dueet*. **HH** Breeds in Tibetan steppe habitat; winters on stony and bushy slopes.



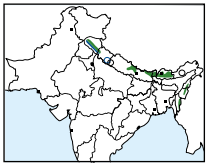
Scarlet Finch *Haematospiza sipahi* 18 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** A stocky, short-tailed finch, with stout pale bill. Male is mainly bright scarlet, with darker wings and tail. Female has bright yellow rump; upperparts are olive-green with diffuse dark feather centres, and may show white mottling on crown and mantle; underparts are similar, but greyer, and become paler towards vent. Some female-plumaged birds have orange rump and orange-brown tinge to crown, nape and mantle. **Voice** A loud, pleasant *too-eee* and a *kwee-i-ur* call. **HH** Broadleaved forest.



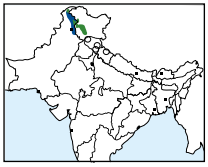
Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* 16–17 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Has dark bill with crossed mandibles, and deeply forked tail. Male is rusty-red, with darker wings and tail. First-winter/summer male is duller orangey-red, although there is much variation (some being greenish-yellow). Female is olive-green, with brighter greenish-yellow rump, and with dark wings and tail. Juvenile is buffish and boldly streaked on upperparts and underparts; mandibles are not initially crossed. **Voice** A loud *chip chip* call. **HH** Coniferous forest. **AN** Common Crossbill.



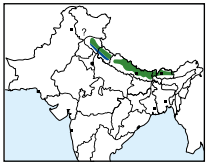
Brown Bullfinch *Pyrrhula nipalensis* 16–17 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Adult has grey-brown mantle, grey underparts, narrow white rump, and long tail. Additional features include narrow black surround to bill, black lores and scaling on forehead and crown, white patch below eye. Sexes similar, although male has crimson-pink outer edge to inner tertial (yellow in female). Juvenile has brownish-buff upperparts and warm buff underparts, and lacks adult head pattern. **Voice** A mellow *per-lee* and soft whistling twitter. **HH** Dense moist forest.



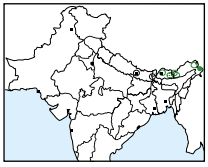
Orange Bullfinch *Pyrrhula aurantiaca* 14 cm

Resident. W Himalayas. **ID** Male from Red-headed by brownish-orange upperparts, orange-buff wing-bars, lack of white surround to black face, and deep orange underparts. Some (first-year?) males are generally pale orange. Female from Red-headed by grey crown and nape, lack of white surround to black face, buff-brown upperparts, brownish-orange underparts, and buffish wing-bars. Juvenile similar to female, but head and body almost uniform pale orange, and black of face is much reduced. **Voice** An upward inflected *twetya*. **HH** Open coniferous and mixed forest.



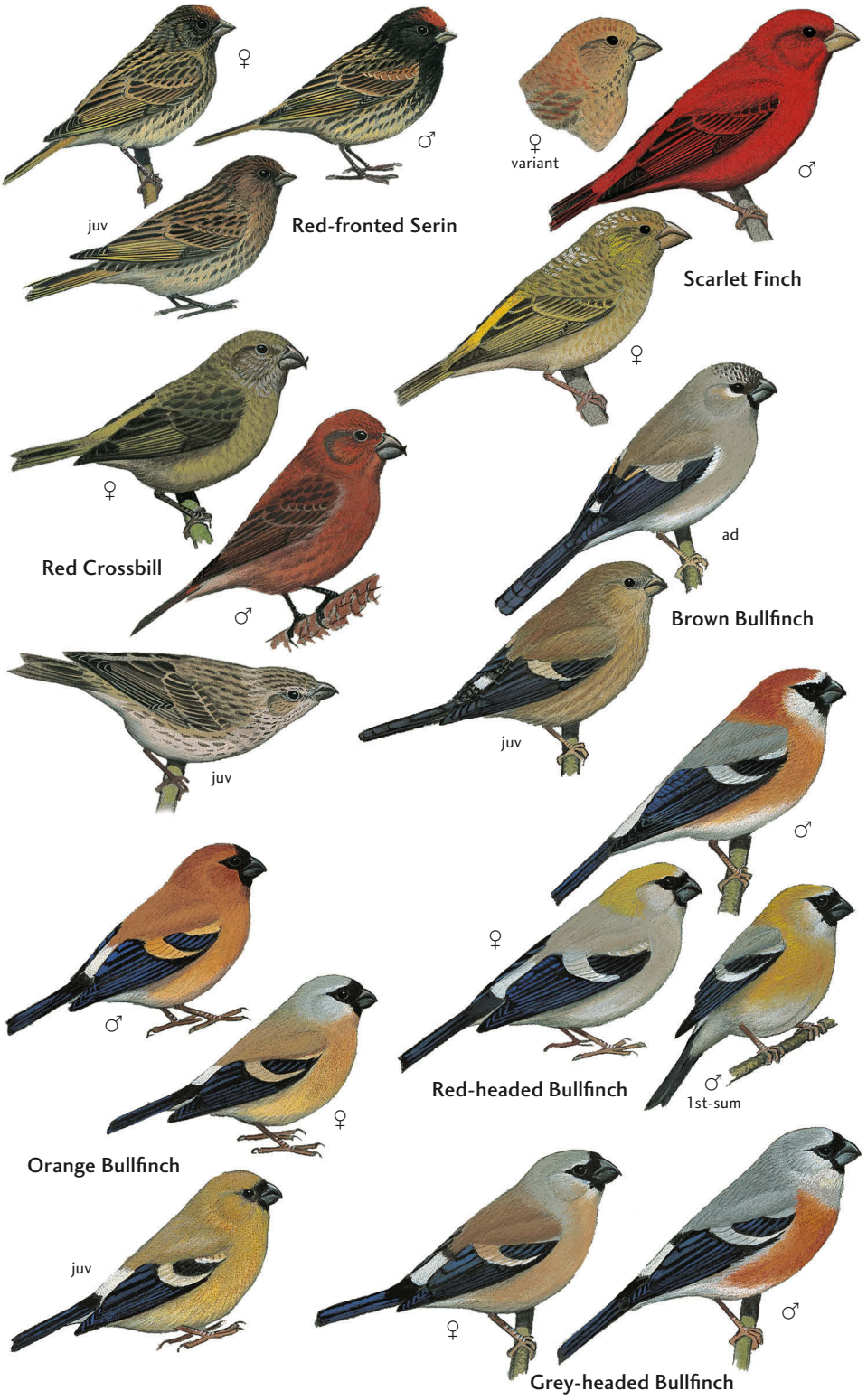
Red-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythrocephala* 17 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Male has orange crown, nape and breast, and grey mantle. Female has yellow crown and nape. Wing-bars of both sexes are greyish-white. First-year male is similar to female, but has olive-yellow on breast and upper flanks. Juvenile is similar to female, but browner, and head and upperparts are warm brown. **Voice** A soft, mellow *pew-pew*. **HH** Mainly broadleaved fo
rest.



Grey-headed Bullfinch *Pyrrhula erythaca* 17 cm

Resident. E Himalayas. **ID** Male from Red-headed by grey crown and nape, deeper orange-red underparts, black band across upper rump, and longer tail. Female from female Red-headed by grey crown and nape, fawn-brown mantle, pinkish-brown underparts, and blackish band across upper rump. Juvenile is very similar to female, but crown and nape are more greyish-olive, mantle is dull grey-brown and underparts are dull brown, and has broad buffish-brown tips to greater coverts. **Voice** A soft, *soo-ee* or triple whistle. **HH** Mixed forest and willow thickets.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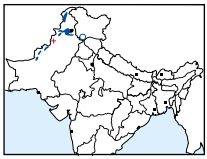
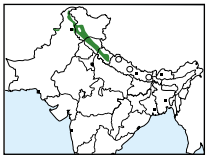


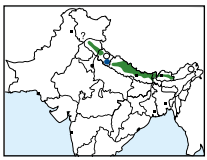
Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes* 16–18 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly Pakistan, also Jammu. **ID** Stocky, short-tailed finch with huge bill. Mainly fawn-brown in coloration, with pale wing-covert panel, and black chin and lores. In flight, shows white band across primaries and white tip to tail. Female is duller than male, with pale brown head and secondaries are broadly edged with pale grey. **Voice** Call is a distinctive *see-tic* or *tic*, and also a hoarse whistle, *tzeep*. **HH** Wild olive forest and orchards.



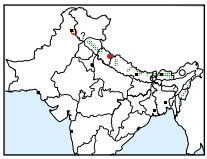
Black-and-yellow Grosbeak *Mycerobas icterioides* 22 cm

Resident. W Himalayas. **ID** Male is very similar to male Collared. Black of plumage is duller (less glossy), and has black thighs. Nape, upperparts and underparts are generally a purer, paler lemon-yellow. Female is very different from female Collared: mantle and breast are pale grey and concolorous with head, and belly, flanks and rump are pale peachy-orange. Immature male is similar to adult female, but has yellow rump and blackish wings and tail, with patches of black on scapulars and throat. **Voice** A throaty whistle; song is a rich *prr-trweeet-a-troweeet*. **HH** Coniferous forest.



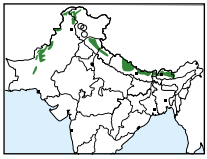
Collared Grosbeak *Mycerobas affinis* 22 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Male is very similar to male Black-and-yellow, although black of plumage is strongly glossed, has yellow thighs, yellow of plumage is more golden yellow, and nape has strong orange cast. Female is very different from female Black-and-yellow: grey head is well demarcated from olive-yellow of underparts, and has greyish-olive mantle, largely yellowish-olive wings, and olive-yellow rump contrasting with black tail. Immature male resembles adult male, but duller and mantle is mottled with black. **Voice** Mellow, rapid *pip-pip-pip-pip-pip-pip-pip-ugh* call; song is rising whistle. **HH** Mixed forest.



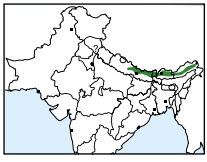
Spot-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas melanozanthos* 22 cm

Resident. Himalayas and NE India. **ID** Stocky, short-tailed and stout-billed grosbeak. Both sexes have broad white tips to greater coverts, tertials and secondaries. Male has black head and upperparts (including rump) and lemon yellow underparts. Female has bold blackish streaking on yellow head and body, and striking head pattern with yellow supercilium, broad black stripe through ear-coverts and black malar stripe. Juvenile as female, but underparts are whiter. Immature male is similarly to female but head mainly black. **Voice** Rattling *krrrr* or *charrarauk* call; song is a loud, melodious whistle *tew-tew-teeeu*. **HH** Breeds in mixed forest; winters in broadleaved forest.



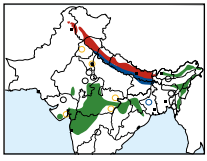
White-winged Grosbeak *Mycerobas carnipes* 22 cm

Resident. Pakistan mountains and Himalayas. **ID** A long-tailed grosbeak. Male has black head, mantle and breast, and olive-yellow rump and rest of underparts; has yellow tips to greater coverts and tertials, and large white patch at base of primaries (which is very prominent in flight). Female resembles male, with distinctive white patch at base of primaries, but black of plumage is replaced by sooty-grey, grey underparts become dull yellowish-olive on lower belly and vent, and has dull olive-yellow rump. Juvenile similar to adult female, but is browner, with paler fringes to upperparts and olive-yellow tips to median (as well as greater) coverts. First-year as female; first-summer male has yellower rump, vent and belly, and more olive mantle. **Voice** Call is a soft, nasal *schwenk* or squawking *wit*; song is a *wet-et-et-un-di-di-di-dit*. **HH** Juniper scrub, and forest with junipers.



Golden-naped Finch *Pyrrhoplectes epauletta* 15 cm

Resident. Himalayas. **ID** Small, stocky finch with fine bill. Has white 'stripe' down tertials in both sexes. Male black, with orange crown and nape, and orange flash at sides of breast. Female has olive-green on head, grey mantle, and rufous-brown wing-coverts and underparts. Juvenile as female, but duller. First-winter male can show scattering of orange feathers on nape and black feathers on underparts. **Voice** Thin, high-pitched *teeu*, *purl-lee* and squeaky *plee-e-e* calls; song is a rapid *pi-pi-pi-pi* and gives bullfinch-like piping. **HH** Undergrowth in oak-rhododendron shrub.



Crested Bunting *Melophus lathami* 17 cm

Resident. Himalayan foothills and hills of NE and C India. **ID** Always has crest and chestnut on wing and tail; tail lacks white. Male has bluish-black head and body (with paler fringes when fresh). Female and first-winter male streaked on upperparts and breast; first-winter male darker and more heavily streaked than female, with olive-grey ground colour to underparts. **Voice** Call is a *tip* or *pink*; song is a *tsri-tsri-tsi-tsu-tsu-tsu*. **HH** Dry rocky and grassy hillsides, and terraced cultivation.

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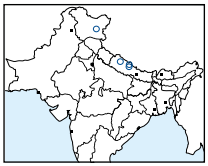
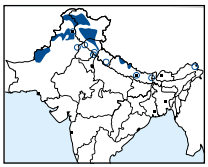
Crested Bunting



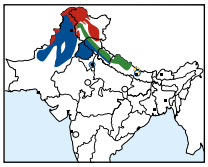
Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella* 16.5 cm

Winter visitor. Nepal and Indian Himalayas. **ID** Most show yellow on supercilium, throat and belly, which help separate from Pine Bunting. Compared with Yellow-breasted Bunting, head pattern is less striking, has less prominent wing-bars and is longer-tailed. Some first-winter females lack yellow, and are then very difficult to separate from female Pine, but belly never white, and has yellowish (rather than whitish) edges to primaries and base of tail. Hybrids with Pine can show variety of intermediate characters. **Voice** As Pine Bunting. **HH** Upland cultivation.



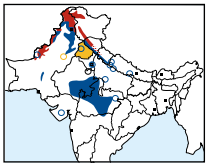
Pine Bunting *Emberiza leucocephalos* 17 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan hills and Himalayas. **ID** Male has chestnut supercilium and throat, whitish crown and ear-covert spot, whitish gorget below chestnut throat, and chestnut streaking across breast and flanks, although pattern obscured in winter. Female has greyish supercilium and nape/neck sides, dark border to ear-coverts, usually some chestnut streaking on breast/flanks, and white belly. Chestnut rump and streaking on breast/flanks, and different call, are best distinctions from female Reed Bunting. **Voice** Calls include a short *dzik*, rasping *dzuh* and rolling *prul-lullu*. **HH** Fallow fields in dry hills.



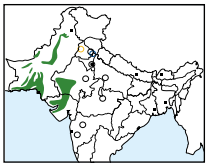
Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia* 16 cm

Resident. Breeds in Pakistan mountains and W Himalayas; winters down to adjacent plains. **ID** Male has grey head and breast, with black head markings. Rump and rest of underparts are deep rufous. Female is dull version of male, with less pronounced head pattern. Juvenile is warm buff, heavily streaked with brown, with dark border to ear-coverts; has rufous tinge to rump and belly. *E. c. par* (NW) has pale rufous-orange underparts and coloration to mantle compared with W Himalayan *stracheyi*. **Voice** Sharp *tsee* and soft *yip* calls. **HH** Breeds on dry grassy and rocky slopes; winters in lowland fallow cultivation.



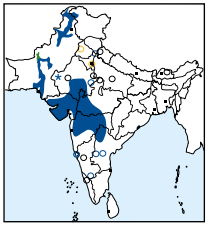
White-capped Bunting *Emberiza stewarti* 15 cm

Breeds in Pakistan mountains and W Himalayas; winters in foothills and valleys of Pakistan and NC India. **ID** Male has grey head, black supercilium and throat, and chestnut breast-band; pattern obscured in winter. Female has rather plain head with pale supercilium; crown and mantle are diffusely streaked, underparts are finely streaked and washed with buff, and has chestnut rump. Juvenile similar to female, but head is rather pale with indistinct streaking. **Voice** Distinctive twittering *chus-chua-chua* call. **HH** Dry grassy and rocky slopes and dry scrub forest; also fallow fields in winter.



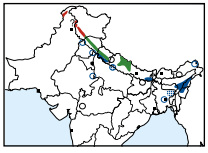
Striolated Bunting *Emberiza striolata* 13–14 cm

Resident. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Lacks prominent white on tail (Rock has much white on outer tail feathers), and has orange lower mandible (bill all grey on Rock). Male has black eye-stripe and moustachial stripe, and white supercilium and submoustachial stripe; throat and breast streaked, and underparts brownish-buff with variable rufous tinge. Female is duller with sandy-brown head and browner head markings. Juvenile is browner than female, with less distinct head pattern. **Voice** Nasal *dschu* and sparrow-like *tchiele* calls. **HH** Dry rocky hills; also sandy plains in winter. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with extralimital House Bunting *E. sahari*.



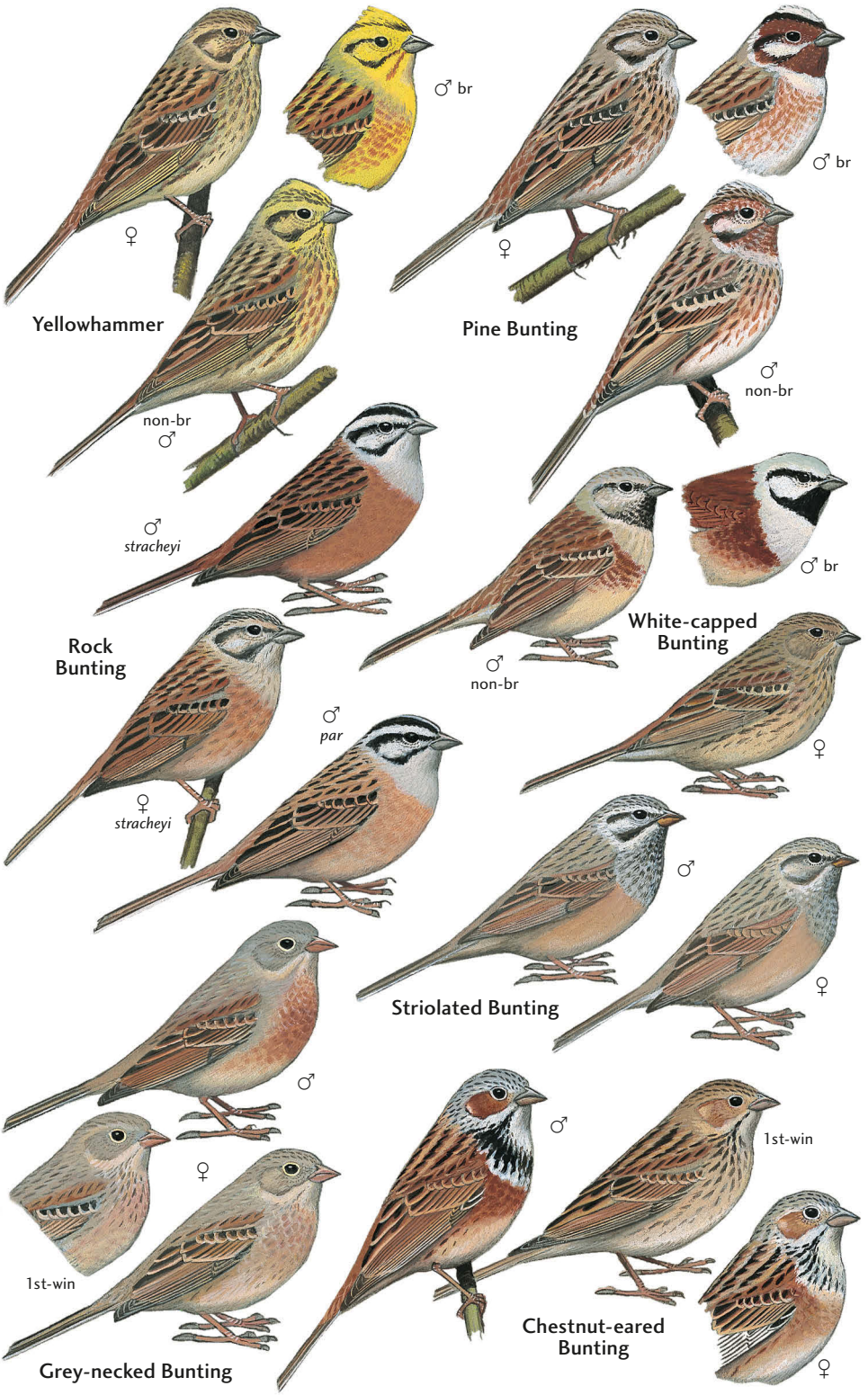
Grey-necked Bunting *Emberiza buchanani* 15 cm

Breeds in Baluchistan; winters mainly in Pakistan and C and W India. **ID** In all plumages, has pinkish-orange bill and rather plain head with whitish eye-ring. Male has blue-grey head with buffish submoustachial stripe and throat, deep rusty-pink breast and belly, and diffusely streaked sandy-brown mantle with pronounced rufous scapulars. Rump is sandy-grey. Female is very similar to male, but generally paler, with buffish cast to grey head and nape (often with some streaking). First-winter/juvenile often have only slight greyish cast to head, and underparts are warm buff (with variable rufous cast), and crown and underparts are faintly streaked. **Voice** Call is a soft click. **HH** Dry rocky and bushy hills.



Chestnut-eared Bunting *Emberiza fucata* 16 cm

Resident and winter visitor. Breeds in W Himalayas; winters east to NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Adult has chestnut ear-coverts, black breast streaking, and usually some chestnut on breast sides. Some first-winter birds rather nondescript, but plain head with warm brown ear-coverts and prominent eye-ring distinctive. **Voice** Explosive *pzick*, higher-pitched *zii* and lower-pitched *chutt* calls. **HH** Dry rocky and bushy hills; also winters in marshes and wet stubbles.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Pine Bunting
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♂ stracheyi
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White-capped Bunting
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Rock Bunting
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♀ stracheyi
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Chestnut-eared Bunting
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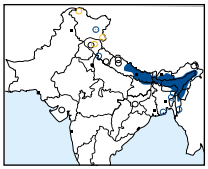
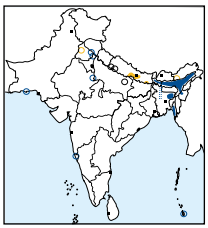
Grey-necked Bunting



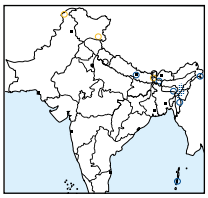
Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla* 13 cm

Winter visitor. Himalayas, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** Small size. From Reed by chestnut ear-coverts (and often supercilium and crown-stripe), and absence of dark moustachial stripe. Has more pointed bill than Reed, and has uniform grey-brown mantle, lightly streaked dark brown (lacking pale 'braces'), more finely streaked breast and flanks, and more prominent pale median- and greater-covert wing-bars. **Voice** Call a sharp *tzic*. **HH** Stubble, grass fields.



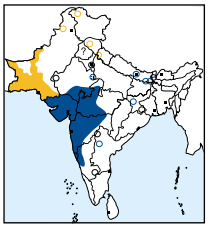
Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola* 15 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly Nepal, NE India and Bangladesh. **ID** A stocky, comparatively short-tailed bunting. Has more direct, less undulating flight compared with other buntings, when appears more weaver- or sparrow-like. Male has black face and chestnut breast-band (obscured when fresh), and white inner wing-coverts. Female has striking head pattern (with broad yellowish supercilium and pale crown stripe), boldly streaked mantle (with pale 'braces' often apparent), and prominent white median-covert bar. Juvenile as female, but underparts are paler yellowish-buff, with fine, dense streaking on breast and flanks. **Voice** Calls include a soft *chup* and a metallic *tick* very like that of Little Bunting. **HH** Cultivation and grassland. Globally threatened.



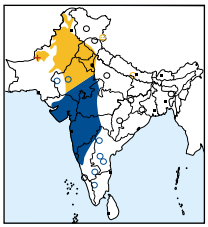
Chestnut Bunting *Emberiza rutila* 14 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly NE India. **ID** Small size and small, fine bill. Has chestnut rump, and little or no white on tail. Male has chestnut head and breast, with coloration obscured in fresh plumage (especially in first-winter). Female has buff throat and yellow underparts; head pattern less striking than on Yellow-breasted. **Voice** Call is like that of Little Bunting. **HH** Rice stubbles, forest clearings and open forest and scrub.



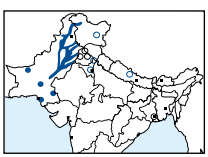
Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala* 16–18 cm

Winter visitor to N, W and WC India and SE Nepal; passage migrant in Pakistan. **ID** Larger than Red-headed Bunting with longer bill. Male has black on head and chestnut on mantle. Female when worn may show ghost pattern of male; fresh female almost identical to Red-headed, but indicative features (although not always apparent) include rufous fringes to mantle and/or back, slight contrast between throat and greyish ear-coverts, and more uniform yellowish underparts. Immature with buff underparts and yellow undertail-coverts. **Voice** Call is a *pyiup*; flight call is a *plut*. **HH** Cereal crops.



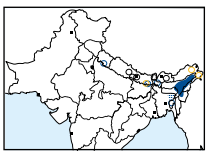
Red-headed Bunting *Emberiza bruniceps* 16 cm

Winter visitor, mainly to NW and WC India; passage migrant in Pakistan. **ID** Smaller than Black-headed, with shorter, more conical bill. Male has rufous on head and yellowish-green mantle. Female when worn may show rufous on head and breast, and yellowish to crown and mantle, and are distinguishable from female Black-headed. Fresh female almost identical to Black-headed, but indicative features include paler throat than breast, with suggestion of buffish breast-band, and forehead and crown often virtually unstreaked. Immature often not separable from Black-headed but may exhibit some of the features mentioned above. **Voice** Call is a *tliip* or rather harsh *prrit*. **HH** Cultivation, especially cereals.



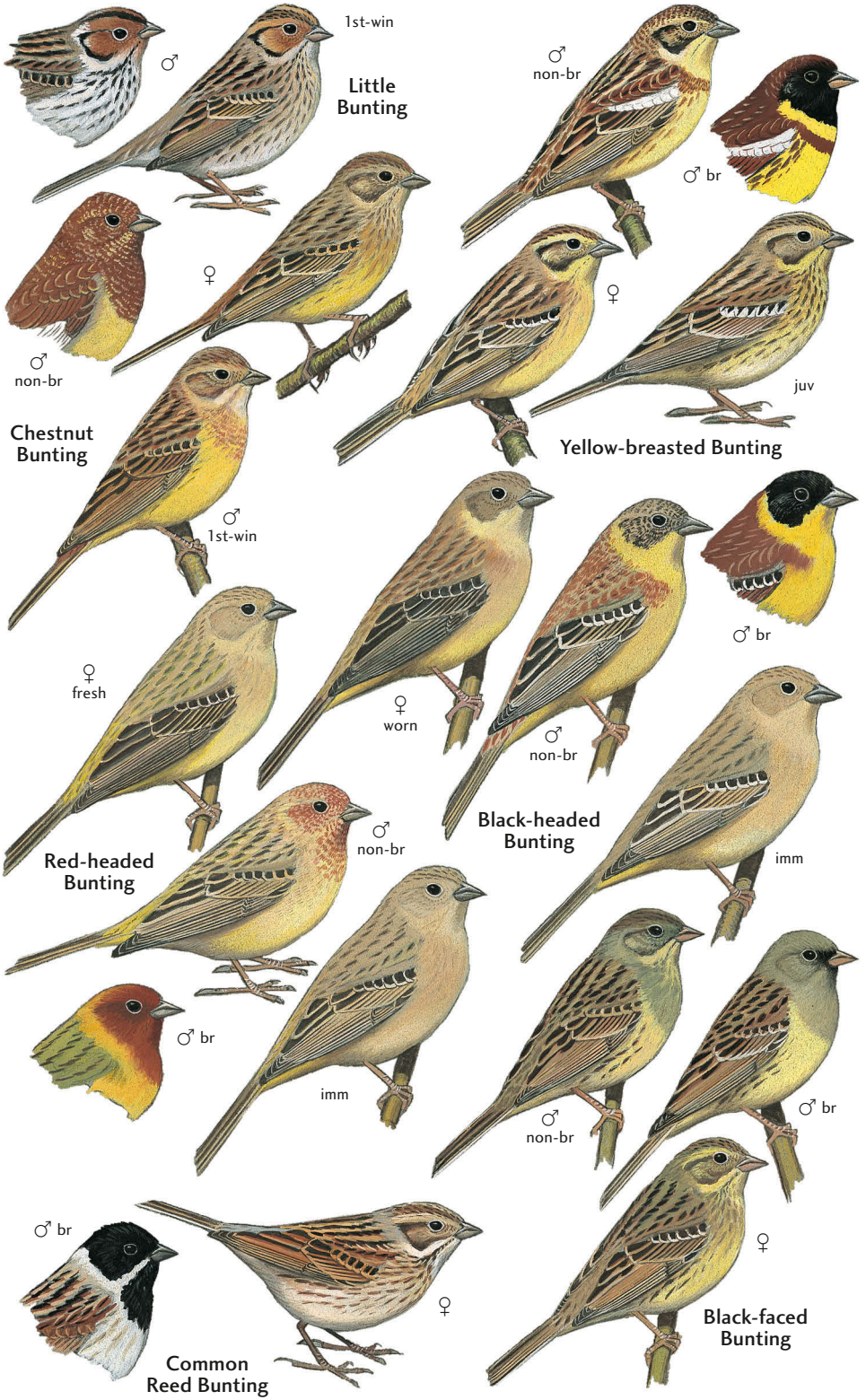
Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* 14–15 cm

Winter visitor. Pakistan and NW India. **ID** Male has black head and white submoustachial stripe; obscured by fringes when fresh. Female has buff supercilium, brown ear-coverts, and dark moustachial and malar stripes reach bill (compare with Little). **Voice** Call is a distinctive *tseeu* and a harsh *chirp*. **HH** Reedbeds and irrigated crops.



Black-faced Bunting *Emberiza spodocephala* 15 cm

Winter visitor. Mainly NE India. **ID** Male has greenish-grey head with blackish lores and chin, and yellow underparts. Non-breeding male with yellow submoustachial stripe and throat. Female has yellowish supercilium, yellow throat, olive rump, and white on tail (compare with Chestnut Bunting). **Voice** Call is a soft *tsip* or sharper *tzit*. **HH** Long grass, paddy-fields and marsh edges.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Black-faced Bunting

APPENDIX 1
VAGRANTS

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis* 66–84 cm

Nepal and India. Black bill with orange band, and orange legs. Has slimmer neck and smaller, more angular head than Greylag Goose. Head, neck and upperparts are darker and browner. In flight lacks pale grey forewing of Greylag. Open country.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* 65–84 cm

India. All white, with black wing-tips and pink bill and legs. Also occurs as 'blue' morph with white head and neck and dark grey body. Grass by reservoirs.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* 125–155 cm

Pakistan and India. Adult is white with orange bill with black base and knob. Juvenile is mottled sooty-brown and has grey bill with black base. Large rivers and lakes.

Tundra Swan *Cygnus columbianus* 115–140 cm

Pakistan, Nepal and India. Adult is white with black and yellow bill; yellow on bill typically as oval-shaped patch. Juvenile is smoky-grey with pinkish bill. Compared with Whooper Swan is smaller in size, with shorter neck and more rounded head. Lakes and large rivers.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* 140–165 cm

Pakistan, Nepal and India. Only recorded in 19th century. Adult is white with black and yellow bill; yellow on bill extends as wedge towards tip. Juvenile is smoky-grey, with pinkish bill. Longer neck and more angular head shape than Tundra. Lakes and large rivers.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* 41–49 cm

Nepal, India, Bhutan and Bangladesh. Male is spectacular. Most striking features are reddish bill, orange 'mane' and 'sails', white stripe behind eye, and black and white stripes on side of breast. Female and eclipse male are mainly greyish with white 'spectacles' and white spotting on breast and flanks. In flight, shows dark upperwing and underwing, with white trailing edge, and white belly. Large rivers.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* 36–47 cm

Pakistan, Nepal and India. Small, stocky duck with stubby bill and pointed tail. Swims low in water and partly opens wings before diving. Both sexes show dark upperwing and underwing in flight. Winter male is mainly white; has dark cheek-patch and breast, and long tail. Female and immature male variable; usually with dark crown, and pale face with dark cheek-patch. Lakes and large rivers.

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata* 53–69 cm

Pakistan and Nepal. Upturned-looking bill and rounded head. In non-breeding plumage, is paler grey and whiter than similar Black-throated Diver. Grey of crown and hind-neck is paler and less extensive compared with Black-throated and does not contrast so strongly with white of ear-coverts and fore-neck. Red throat and uniform grey-brown upperparts in breeding plumage. Coastal waters, large lakes and rivers. **AN** Red-throated Loon.

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica* 58–73 cm

India. Straight bill and square-shaped head help distinguish it from Red-throated in all plumages. Blackish upperparts and white underparts in non-breeding plumage (more grey and white in Red-throated) and typically shows white flank-patch (more striking than in Red-throated). Unmistakable in breeding plumage, with black throat and black-and-white chequered upperparts. Flooded land, lakes and coastal waters. **AN** Black-throated Loon.

Cape Petrel *Daption capense* 38–40 cm

Sri Lanka. A stocky, broad-winged, black-and-white petrel. Has black head, white upperbody untidily marked with black, black tail-band, black upperwings with bold white patches, mainly white underwings with broad black border, and white underparts. Pelagic.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus* 40–46 cm

Sri Lanka. Sooty-brown with whitish flash on underwing-coverts. Has all-dark bill, and dark legs and feet extend just beyond tail. Slim, pointed wings, and strong, deliberate flight action with stiff flapping and long glides. Offshore and pelagic waters.

Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* 41–43 cm

Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Sooty brown, with pale grey underwing-coverts. Much as the very similar Sooty Shearwater but has shorter bill and steeper forehead, shorter extension of rear body and tail behind wings, and pale panel on underwing tends to be less striking. Coastal waters.

White-faced Storm-petrel *Pelagodroma marina* 20 cm

SW India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Adult has white underparts and underwing-coverts, white supercilium contrasting with dark crown and ear-coverts, greyish-brown upperwing-coverts with paler grey greater-covert bar and grey rump contrasting with slightly notched black tail. Feet project noticeably beyond tail and wings appear broad and oval-shaped. Juvenile has paler head, white rump and more pronounced greater-covert bar. Has peculiar bounding flight. Pelagic.

White-bellied Storm-petrel *Fregetta grallaria* 20 cm

Maldives. Resembles Black-bellied Storm-petrel with prominent white rump, white underwing-coverts and diffuse pale bar across upperwing-coverts. Feet extend slightly beyond tail. Best told from that species by all-white underside to body (lacking black line down centre of belly), white undertail-coverts, and paler sooty-brown upperparts. Flight is similar to that of Black-bellied but less erratic. Pelagic.

Black-bellied Storm-petrel *Fregetta tropica* 20 cm

Sri Lanka. Upperside resembles that of Wilson's Storm-petrel with prominent white rump, and feet extending beyond tail. Upperwing-coverts are blacker, and upperwing can appear wholly dark. Differs from Wilson's in having largely white underwing-coverts and white flanks. From White-bellied by black line down centre of belly and black undertail-coverts. Flight is erratic, zigzagging from side to side. Pelagic.

Band-rumped Storm-petrel *Oceanodroma castro* 19–21 cm

Maldives. A medium-sized storm-petrel, all dark brown-black, except for a conspicuous white oval rump-patch and pale upperwing bands. From Wilson's, the only other white-rumped, all-dark storm-petrel previously recorded in the region, by slightly forked, not square tail, and by the legs not projecting beyond the tail. At close range, bill is noticeably heavy. Typical flight is buoyant, with tight twists and short glides on direct switchback progression. Pelagic waters. **AN** Madeiran Storm-petrel.

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* 45–55 cm

Pakistan. On average is larger and bulkier than Little Cormorant. Adult breeding has chestnut head and upper neck (becoming nearly black prior to breeding), with more profuse white plumes than breeding Little. Non-breeding and immature are very similar to Little, although tend to be browner on body and have more extensive whitish mottling on breast and belly. In adult non-breeding chin and throat are whitish, gradually merging into brown of fore-neck (on Little, chin is more clearly demarcated). Inland waters.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* 60–66 cm

India. Similar to Black Kite, but has more deeply forked rufous-orange tail, rufous underparts and underwing-coverts, and whitish head. Also more pronounced pale band across upperwing-coverts, and more pronounced whitish patches at base of primaries on underwing. Lightly wooded semi-desert.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda* 75–105 cm

Pakistan. Very large, stocky bustard. In all plumages has greyish head and upper neck, cinnamon lower neck, cinnamon upper parts with bold, black barring, and white underparts. Patterning of white on wing differs from that of other bustards (secondaries are black, and white is most prominent on the greater coverts). Male is larger than female, with thicker neck and with more extensive white on wing (tertials and wing-coverts show more white). Grassland and crops.

Corncrake *Crex crex* 27–30 cm

Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. A stocky crake with stout pinkish bill and legs. Has rufous chestnut on wings (especially prominent in flight), buff-brown upperparts boldly streaked with dark brown, greyish fore-neck and breast, and rufous-brown and white barring on flanks. Juvenile has buffish rather than grey neck, neck and breast. Grassland and crops.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria* 26–29 cm

Pakistan and India. Very similar in plumage to Pacific Golden Plover. Is stockier with shorter and stouter bill and shorter legs. Underwing-coverts and axillaries largely white. At rest, primaries do not extend beyond tail as in Pacific. In flight, toes do not project beyond tail (noticeable projection in Pacific). Breeding plumage is similar to Pacific, although shows more white on sides of breast and flanks. In non-breeding plumage, supercilium is usually less distinct and is rather plain-faced, compared with Pacific. Grassland and mud on lakeshores and in estuaries.

Oriental Plover *Charadrius veredus* 22–25 cm

India and Sri Lanka. Told from Caspian Plover by larger size, longer neck and legs, brown underwing-coverts and axillaries (giving uniformly dark underwing) and uniformly dark upperwing typically lacking any sign of white wing-bar. In breeding plumage, male has mainly whitish head and pale chestnut band across breast with black lower border. Yellowish or pinkish legs. Mudflats and coast.

Eurasian Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* 21 cm

Pakistan. A stocky plover with comparatively short, yellow legs. Very distinctive in breeding plumage, with prominent white supercilium, narrow white breast-band and chestnut and blackish belly. In juvenile and non-breeding plumage, belly is buffish, but retains distinctive supercilium and suggestion of narrow breast-band. Dry open country.

Great Snipe *Gallinago media* 27–29 cm

India and Sri Lanka. Medium-sized, bulky snipe, with broader wings than Common and Pin-tailed Snipes, and slower and more direct flight. Additional features include heavily barred underwing, narrow but distinct white wing-bars and prominent white at sides of tail (latter two features less pronounced in juvenile). White wing-bars and white belly help to distinguish from Wood Snipe. Marshes.

Long-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus scolopaceus* 27–30 cm

India. Rather snipe-like in shape and feeding action. Superficially resembles Bar-tailed Godwit or Asian Dowitcher, but is smaller and has shorter legs (which are greyish, yellowish or greenish rather than black).In flight, shows a clear white trailing edge to the wing, barred rump and tail, and a striking white back. In all plumages has pronounced white supercilium. In breeding plumage has rufous underparts, with some barring and spotting, and dark upperparts have narrow rufous fringes. In non-breeding plumage, has grey upperparts and breast, and white belly. Juvenile recalls non-breeding adult, but has rufous fringes to mantle and scapulars, and buff wash to underparts. Call is a high, thin *keek*.

Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* 60–66 cm

Bangladesh. Large size and very long, curved bill. Dark back and rump and heavily barred underwing-coverts and axillaries. Underparts washed with buff in adult breeding and juvenile (ground colour of Eurasian Curlew's breast and belly is whiter), although underbody in non-breeding adult is paler and more like Eurasian. Mainly coastal.

Nordmann's Greenshank *Tringa guttifer* 29–32 cm

India and Bangladesh. Stockier than Common Greenshank, with shorter, yellowish legs, and deeper bill with blunt tip. Breeding adult has black spotting on breast and prominent white notching on scapulars and tertials. Non-breeding has paler and more uniform upperparts than Common. Juvenile has rather uniform upperparts, with paler fringes to wing-coverts, and strongly bicoloured bill. Flight call is *kwork* or *gwaak*, very different from Common Greenshank. Freshwater and coastal wetlands. **AN** Spotted Greenshank.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes* 24–27 cm

Bangladesh. A stocky grey and white wader with stout straight bill and short yellow legs. In all plumages, shows prominent white supercilium contrasting with dark eye-stripe, uniform grey wings lacking prominent wing-bar, grey rump and tail, and grey underwing contrasting with white belly. Adult breeding has barring on breast and flanks. Adult non-breeding uniform grey on upperparts and breast. Juvenile has indistinct white spotting on upperparts. Coastal wetlands.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos* 19–23 cm

India and Sri Lanka. In all plumages has sharply demarcated gorget of streaks coming to a point in centre of breast, unmarked belly and pale legs tinged yellowish. Breast band is much more sharply demarcated from white belly compared with Sharp-tailed Sandpiper. In flight has narrow white bar on upperwing and clear white sides to lower rump and uppertail-coverts. When alert has erect stance with neck stretched. Flight call is a reedy *trrit*. Freshwater wetlands.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata* 17–21 cm

Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Recalls Wood Sandpiper in shape, or a very large Long-toed Stint in both shape and plumage. Has rufous crown (indistinct in winter) and prominent supercilium. Adult non-breeding is greyish with breast-band of fine streaking. Adult breeding has dark markings over entire underparts, with arrow-head markings on flanks and bright rufous fringes to feathers of mantle and scapulars. Juvenile is similar to adult breeding, but has buff wash to lightly streaked breast. Freshwater and coastal wetlands.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* 18–20 cm

India and Sri Lanka. Recalls a tiny Ruff, with shorter and straighter bill, large eyes and bright yellow legs. Upperwing lacks wing-bar and shows no white on rump or tail. White underwing has dark crescent on primary coverts (underwing entirely white in Ruff). In all plumages face and underparts are buff, and dark upperparts are neatly fringed with buff. Short grass, mud and seashore.

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius* 20–22 cm

India and Pakistan. Typically seen swimming. Stockier than Red-necked Phalarope, with stouter bill that is often pale or yellowish at base. Adult breeding has red neck and underparts and white face patch. Adult non-breeding has more uniform and paler grey mantle, scapulars and rump than Red-necked. Juvenile has dark upperparts evenly fringed with buff (lacking mantle and scapular stripes of Red-necked). Habitat not recorded in subcontinent. **AN** Grey Phalarope.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* 27 cm

India. Small gull, with short legs, blackish bill, and buoyant flight. Adult has dark grey underwing and entirely white upperwing. Blackish head in breeding plumage; blackish rear crown and spot behind eye in non-breeding and immature plumages. Immature has black M-mark across upperwing. Coastal and inland waters. **TN** Formerly placed in *Larus*.

Black-legged Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* 38–40 cm

India. In all plumages outer primaries on upper and underwing are black-tipped, underwing is white; has slightly forked tail. Adult has white head in summer with grey hind neck, dark grey upperparts shading to whitish before black tip; yellowish bill and blackish legs. First year has dark 'W' pattern across wings and black tail-band; juvenile and some first-winters have white head with black ear-spot and black half-collar; 'W' is much faded by first summer. Call is a nasal, wailing *kitt-i-waak kitt-i-waak*. Pelagic.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* 33–35 cm

India. Very similar to Common Tern. Uniform translucent primaries with well-defined dark trailing edge, lack of dark secondary bar, shorter bill and shorter legs are good features separating it from Common in all plumages. In breeding plumage, has dark red bill normally lacking black tip. Juvenile shows white trailing edge to wing. Recorded inland in region, but usually found on coasts.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* 22–24 cm

India. Superficially similar to White-winged Tern. In breeding plumage, told from White-winged by grey rather than black mantle, uniform grey underwing, and grey (rather than white) rump and tail. Non-breeding and juvenile have dark patch on side of breast (lacking in White-winged) and grey rump and tail. Juvenile shows less contrast between mantle and upperwing-coverts (juvenile White-winged shows distinctly darker saddle). Marshes, pools and lakes.

Black Noddy *Anous minutus* 34 cm

India. Extremely similar to Brown and Lesser Noddies. Adult from adult Brown by smaller and slimmer appearance, faster, more fluttering flight, dark brownish-black plumage and slimmer and straighter bill, longer than head. In flight, shows all-dark upperwing and underwing, lacking paler bar across upperwing-coverts and any paleness on underwing-coverts; centre of uppertail is paler and greyer and often contrasts strongly with blackish rest of upperparts. Distinguished from Lesser by black lores with well-defined white forehead and crown. Pelagic.

South Polar Skua *Stercorarius maccormicki* 53 cm

India, Sri Lanka and Maldives. Slightly smaller and slighter than Brown Skua, with finer bill. Pale morph distinctive: pale sandy-brown head and underbody contrasting with dark brown mantle and upperwing- and underwing-coverts. Dark morph lacks heavy pale streaking/mottling of Brown, and usually has pale forehead, dark cap/head and paler hind neck; uniform (unbarred) underwing-coverts, axillaries and uppertail- and undertail-coverts are best distinctions from dark juvenile Pomarine Jaeger. Intermediates also occur. Juvenile has pale to mid grey head and underparts, and dark grey upperparts. Coastal waters. **TN** Formerly placed in genus *Catharacta*.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus* 35–41 cm (not including tail)

Maldives, Sri Lanka. Adult in summer has distinct black cap, and contrast above between dark remiges and paler brown-grey wing-coverts and back, and very long tail streamers; lacks prominent white flash in primaries compared with Arctic Skua. Juvenile has as much variation in plumage as Arctic, although tends to be greyer, lacks prominent white flash in primaries, and has blunt tip to short extension of central tail feathers (pointed in Arctic). In all plumages, from Arctic by slim body, narrow wings, longer-looking rear end, light, almost tern-like flight and shorter bill. Pelagic and coastal waters. **AN** Long-tailed Jaeger.

Pallas's Sandgrouse *Syrrhaptes paradoxus* 30–41 cm

India. A large pin-tailed sandgrouse with elongated outer primaries. Both sexes have pale orange throat and patch on sides of head, pale grey breast, sandy upperparts with bold black spotting and barring, prominent black patch on belly and largely white underwing in flight. Male has narrow gorget of black barring across breast and unbarred sandy wing-coverts.

Female lacks black gorget and has extensive black barring on mantle and wing-coverts and narrow black bar across lower throat. Arid plains and uplands.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas* 32–34 cm

India. Size and shape resemble Common Pigeon. Plumage is blue-grey with iridescent green and vinous neck patch. In flight shows broad black terminal band on tail, two small black bars on inner part of upperwing (Common Pigeon has full dark wing-bar); underwing grey with dark trailing edge (Rock Pigeon shows mainly white). Open country. **AN** Stock Pigeon.

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur* 33 cm

Pakistan, India and Maldives. Has white sides and tip to tail. Told from *meena* race of Oriental Turtle Dove by smaller size and slimmer build; broader, paler rufous-buff fringes to scapulars and wing-coverts; more buffish- or brownish-grey rump and uppertail-coverts; and greyish-pink breast, becoming whitish on belly and undertail-coverts. Juvenile lacks neck-barring. Cultivation in drier mountains and valleys.

Snowy Owl *Bubo scandiacus* 53–66 cm

Pakistan. A huge owl, mainly white, with variable dark markings and striking yellow eyes. Open country. **TN** Formerly placed in *Nyctea*.

Swinhoe's Minivet *Pericrocotus cantonensis* 20 cm

Bangladesh. Male like Ashy Minivet but hindcrown dark grey, white behind eye, upperparts tinged brown, breast and belly washed vinous-brownish, rump pale drab brownish; wing-patch (if present) pale yellowish-buff. Compared to male, female is paler above, rump less sharply contrasting and wing-patch (if present) yellower-tinged. Female from Ashy by paler rump, browner upperparts, no dark forehead band, underparts less clean. Forest and forest edge.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor* 20 cm

India. Smaller than Southern Grey Shrike, with long extension of primaries beyond tertials. Adult has more extensive black forehead compared with Southern Grey Shrike, different patterning of white in wing (broad white patch at base of primaries, and all-black secondaries except for white at tips), and shorter and squarer tail with less white at sides. First-winter is similar to adult but lacks black forehead. Open dry country with bushes.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor* 25 cm

Pakistan and India. Lacks black forehead and has pale grey mantle. Very similar to *pallidirostris* race of Southern Grey (which is paler, with pale lores and pale bill, and lacks prominent black forehead compared with the more widely distributed *lahtora* race of Southern Grey), but has broad white band at base of secondaries, and whitish rump and uppertail-coverts. Open country.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* 27 cm

Pakistan. Adult is striking, with chestnut hind-crown and nape, black upperparts with white scapular and rump, and white underparts. The sexes are similar although the female is duller. Shows prominent white patch in primaries in flight. Juvenile is heavily scaled; told from juvenile Red-backed Shrike by paler, more prominently scaled crown and nape, whitish centres to scapulars, pale rump, and whitish patch at base of primaries. Scrub and open country.

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* 25 cm

India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Male from male 'Indian Golden Oriole' by largely black wings (with smaller yellow carpal patch and only indistinct whitish tips to tertials/secondaries), two-thirds black on outertail feathers, and black mask does not extend behind eye. Female and immature variable, and much as 'Indian', but with less yellow on outertail feathers; also often greyer or more olive and less heavily streaked on underparts. Bill shorter, less downcurved than 'Indian', and darker red in adult. Voice and habitat as 'Indian'.

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus* 18 cm

Pakistan, Nepal, India. Mainly fawn-brown in coloration, with prominent crest. Has black mask and throat, grey rump and uppertail-coverts contrasting with blackish tail that has broad yellow tip, and waxy red and yellow markings on coverts. Has starling-like appearance in flight, when often utters distinctive soft ringing trill. Open country with fruiting trees and bushes.

Azure Tit *Cyanistes cyanus* 13.5 cm

Pakistan. Small short-billed tit with longish tail. Mainly whitish head, with dark stripe through eye and band across nape, grey mantle, white underparts and broad white wing-bar and tips to tertials. Similar in appearance to Yellow-breasted Tit but withoug yellow on breast. Seasonally dry river-bed bushes.

Yellow-breasted Tit *Cyanistes flavipectus* 13 cm

Pakistan. Similar in appearance to Azure Tit, but has greyish head and distinctive yellow breast; chin and centre of throat greyish (shows a faint bib). Dense thickets. **TN** Formerly treated as conspecific with Azure Tit.

Crested Tit Warbler *Leptopoecile elegans* (not illustrated) 10cm

India. Small and tit-like. Recalls White-browed Tit Warbler, but with prominent white crest and lacks white in tail; also has blue wings and tail, and lavender flanks. Male has blue mantle, chestnut head and pale rufous breast. Female has white face, throat and upper breast, blackish nape, and chestnut mantle, upper wing-coverts and flanks. Coniferous forest.

Asian Stubtail *Urosphena squameiceps* 11 cm

Nepal and Bangladesh. Very short tail. Otherwise similar in appearance to Pale-footed Bush Warbler but has more rufescent upperparts, longer and more prominent buffish supercilium, and brownish-black eye-stripe which almost reaches hind-crown. Has white underparts, long pale pinkish legs and large feet. Broadleaved forest.

Manchurian Bush Warbler *Cettia canturians* 15–18 cm

India. Large plain rufous bush warbler. Has dark brown eye-stripe and marked buff eyebrow. Told from Thick-billed Warbler by pale supercilium, rufescent crown, less buffy underparts, slender bill and smaller size. Habitat in subcontinent unknown; usually occurs in scrub.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* 19 cm

Pakistan and India. Differs from Clamorous Reed in having a shorter, stouter bill, longer primary projection and shorter-looking tail. Primary projection is roughly equal to length of tertials, with 8 or 9 exposed primary tips visible beyond the tertials (primary projection in Clamorous is two-thirds of tertial length, with 6 or 7 exposed tips visible beyond the tertials). Reedbeds.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus* 13 cm

India. Similar in appearance to Moustached Warbler, with broad white supercilium and streaked mantle. Head pattern less striking than Moustached's; also has buffish olive-brown coloration to upperparts, well-defined buffy fringes to tertials and greater coverts, and longer primary projection. Tall vegetation at wetland edges.

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* 13 cm

Pakistan. Very similar in appearance to Blyth's Reed Warbler, but with longer primary projection. In worn (breeding) plumage, it is rather pale brown above and white below (Blyth's Reed is more grey-toned), whilst in fresh (non-breeding) plumage it is more rufescent (Blyth's Reed is more olive-toned). Supercilium is less prominent, bill is longer and primary projection is longer, compared with Paddyfield and Blunt-winged Warblers. Song is a varied series of scratchy notes, and less musical than Blyth's Reed (lacking clear, rising notes). Reedbeds.

Buff-throated Warbler *Phylloscopus subaffinis* 11 cm

India. Very similar in appearance to Tickell's Leaf Warbler and best told by less prominent buffish-yellow supercilium, yellowish-buff underparts, and lack of wing-bar. It is duskier on ear-coverts, and has extensive dark tip to lower mandible. Habitat in region unknown, but usually occurs in dense undergrowth.

Radde's Warbler *Phylloscopus schwarzi* 12 cm

Nepal and India. Similar to Dusky Warbler, with long buffish-white supercilium contrasting with dark eye-stripe. Has stout bill, and orange-tinged legs and feet; call different from Dusky's, a nervous *prit prit*. In fresh plumage, can show greenish-olive cast to upperparts and buffish-yellow cast to supercilium and underparts, which are distinctive features from Dusky. Undergrowth and bushes.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* 12 cm

Andamans. Extremely similar to *viridanus* race of Greenish Warbler. Best identified by very distinctive buzzing *dziit* call. Prominent supercilium is generally longer and finer but in front of eye it falls short of forehead; also has a darker broader eye-stripe, which usually reaches base of bill. Mangroves and groves.

Two-barred Warbler *Phylloscopus plumbeitarsus* 10–11 cm

India. Similar to Greenish Warbler but when fresh shows two broader yellowish-white wing-bars. Often worn in winter, with narrower wing-bars and may lack the shorter upper wing-bar. Song is similar to Greenish but faster. Usual call is a trisyllabic, rather sparrow-like *chireewee*. Forests and wooded areas.

Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes* 10 cm

India. Superficially resembles Greenish Warbler. Always distinguished by very pale grey-pink legs and feet, whitish tip to dark bill and distinctive, high-pitched metallic *pink* call. Often buff wash to ear-coverts and olive-brown cast to upperparts, especially rump. Crown is distinctly greyer and usually contrasts with mantle. Underparts are whitish (never showing any yellow). Collected on a boat; elsewhere usually keeps close to the ground in forest understorey.

Claudia's Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus claudiae* 11.5–12 cm

India. On current knowledge only separable in the field from Blyth's Leaf Warbler by song. Has similar or slightly less white on outer tail feathers. Song usually consists of one or two introductory notes followed by medium to rapid trills of a single note. However one population (S Shaanxi) sings verses of repeated syllables instead of trill songs.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin* 14 cm

India. Stout-billed, stocky appearance. Has olive-brown to grey-brown upperparts and buffish-white underparts, with white throat. Rather featureless, but with dark eye, a whitish eye-ring and just a faint suggestion of a greyish supercilium. Plain-faced appearance aids separation from *Hippolais* and *Acrocephalus* warblers. Forest undergrowth and bushes.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria* 15 cm

Pakistan and India. Large size, stout bill and pale edges and tips to tertials and wing-coverts in all plumages. Plain-faced appearance recalls Garden Warbler. Adult has greyish upperparts, yellow iris and variable dark barring on whitish underparts. First-winter has greyish olive-brown upperparts and buffish underparts, with barring on undertail-coverts and occasionally on flanks. Bushes.

Giant Laughingthrush *Garrulax maximus* 34 cm

Possibly resident. Arunachal Pradesh. Large, boldly spotted laughingthrush with long tail. From the smaller Spotted Laughingthrush by chestnut rather than black throat, buff breast with less extensive black scaling, and longer largely grey tail. Crown, nape and moustachial stripe dark greyish-brown, sides of head and chin chestnut. Shrill, loud calls reminiscent of Large Hawk Cuckoo. Dense, dry subalpine forest.

Bearded Reedling *Panurus biarmicus* 16–17 cm

Pakistan. A round-bodied, long-tailed babbler-like bird with a small yellow bill. Has white edges to primaries, which form a wing panel. Male has grey head with black moustache, rufous mantle, tail and flanks, and black undertail-coverts. Female and juvenile have plain buff head and lack black undertail-coverts. Has distinctive ringing *ping-ping* call. Reedbeds. **AN** Bearded Tit.

Daurian Starling *Agropsar sturninus* 19 cm

Pakistan, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka. A small stocky starling with short tail and stout bill. Adult male has pale grey head, nape and underparts, purplish-black hind-crown patch and mantle, white tips to median coverts and rear scapulars forming prominent white V from behind, and glossy greenish-black wings with greyish-white tips to inner greater coverts and tertials. Female and juvenile are duller; wing-bars and tips to scapulars are less prominent in juvenile. Open wooded areas. **TN** Formerly placed in *Sturnus*. **AN** Purple-backed Starling.

Chestnut-cheeked Starling *Agropsar philippensis* 16.5–17 cm

India. Male resembles Daurian Starling, but head pale tinged yellowish-buff to brown, with diagnostic chestnut patch on ear-coverts, and side of neck; has darker grey breast and flanks, whitish fringes on secondaries and lacks whitish tips to scapulars, greater coverts and tertials. Female and juvenile are similar to Daurian but have whitish fringes on secondaries and lack whitish tips to scapulars, greater coverts and tertials. Cultivation and secondary growth. **TN** Formerly placed in *Sturnus*.

White-shouldered Starling *Sturnia sinensis* 20 cm

Nepal and India. Adult male has silky-grey head and body and white forehead and throat, and white scapulars and wing-coverts forming large white patch and contrasting with black of rest of wing. Body may have rusty-orange wash. Female and juvenile browner, with less or no white on wing. Pale grey uppertail-coverts and black tail with greyish-white sides and tip help separate birds lacking white on wing from Chestnut-tailed Starling. Riverine forest. **TN** Formerly placed in *Sturnus*.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* 25 cm

India. Adult has blue-grey head, chestnut-brown mantle and much of wing, blue-grey rump and uppertail-coverts contrast with black tail, black streaking on throat and crescent-shaped spotting on breast and flanks, and orange-buff wash to spotted breast. Shows white on underwing in flight. First-winter is very similar to adult but duller especially on upperparts. Fields and orchards.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus* 22 cm

Pakistan. Small, rather short-tailed and compact thrush with spotted/streaked underparts. Best told from Song Thrush by prominent whitish supercilium and red patch on flanks when perched and red underwing-coverts in flight. Habitat unknown in subcontinent.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* 23 cm

Pakistan and India. Small and rather compact thrush. Adult superficially resembles Mistle Thrush, with bold black spotting on underparts. Best told by much smaller size and more compact shape, darker olive-brown upperparts, uniform wings and tail, and orange-buff underwing-coverts. Head rather plain, lacking supercilium. First-winter is as adult but has buff tips to greater coverts. Deciduous woodland.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* 13 cm

Pakistan. Rotund and well-proportioned robin, often looks big-headed. Adult has olive-brown upperparts, including tail, and rusty-red throat, breast and face. Forests and shrubberies.

Firethroat *Luscinia pectardens* 15 cm

India. Male has white on tail, and flame-orange throat and breast bordered at sides with black. Female has mainly orange-buff underparts; possible features from Indian Blue Robin are orange-buff vent and undertail-coverts and darker legs. First-winter male has blue on back and rump, with tail as male and underparts as female. Dense bushes and woodland.

Siberian Blue Robin *Luscinia cyane* 15 cm

Nepal and India. Male has dark blue upperparts, black sides to throat and breast and white underparts. Female has olive-brown upperparts, pale buff throat and breast, the latter faintly scaled with dark brown, and usually has blue on uppertail-coverts and tail. Female is similar to female Indian Blue Robin but lacks orange-buff across breast and on flanks of that species. First-winter male similar to female, but with blue on mantle. Dense bushes.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* 16 cm

Pakistan. Much as Bluethroat in shape and behaviour, but with longer tail. Rather nondescript, with greyish olive-brown upperparts and greyish-white underparts and whitish throat. Has rufous uppertail-coverts and long rufous tail, indistinct head markings and pale fringes to wing-coverts and remiges. Bushes, usually feeding on the ground.

Red-flanked Bluetail *Tarsiger cyanurus* 14 cm

India. Similar to Himalayan Bluetail, but has duller, lighter upperparts, paler supercilium, which is whitish in front of eye and less pure white underparts. Female is like Himalayan, but breast is paler contrasting less with white on throat, and has whiter belly. First-winter is like female. Forest understorey.

Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia* 13 cm

India and Sri Lanka. All plumages show yellow rump which separates it from all other flycatchers recorded in subcontinent. Male has yellow underparts, black upperparts except for white wing flash and supercilium and white undertail-coverts. Female and first-winter have greyish-olive upperparts and a pale yellow wash on underparts. Undergrowth along rivers and streams.

Radde's Accentor *Prunella ocularis* 15–16 cm

Pakistan. Very similar in appearance to Brown Accentor, but has dark brown crown (paler than ear-coverts in Brown), heavily streaked mantle, spotted malar stripe, buffish breast-band and streaked flanks. Some show no dark markings on malar and flanks. Confusion is also possible with first-winter Black-throated Accentor, which may not show dark throat, but has white supercilium and darker crown and ear-coverts. Shrubs in mountainous areas.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis* 15 cm

Pakistan. Subtle differences from Tree Pipit are slimmer build, slimmer and weaker bill, and less boldly streaked breast but more boldly streaked flanks. Lacks prominent white supercilium, broad white wing-bars and distinct greenish edges to tertials and secondaries of Rosy Pipit. Call is a soft *sip-sip-sip*, most similar to that of Rosy. Grassy lake margins and fields.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus* 11–12 cm

Nepal and India. Most likely to be confused with female Tibetan Serin. Male is distinguished by black crown and chin, and black-and-yellow wings. Female differs from female Tibetan in wing pattern (with yellowish patches at base of secondaries and primaries) and brighter yellow rump; bill is marginally longer and slimmer. Conifers.

Crimson-winged Finch *Rhodopechys sanguineus* 15–18 cm

Pakistan. A large finch with stout yellowish bill, pink on wing, blackish crown giving capped appearance, dark streaking on brown mantle, dark-streaked ear-coverts, brown breast-band, streaking on flanks; belly and crescent below brown breast are strikingly white. Superficially resembles Mongolian or Desert Finches. Bare, stony slopes and alpine grassland.

Three-banded Rosefinch *Carpodacus trifasciatus* 17–19.5 cm

Bhutan. Both sexes have broad double wing-bars and white band down scapulars. Upperparts and underparts of male are mainly pinkish-crimson, with variable greyish edges to feathers of mantle. Belly and lower flanks are white contrasting with pinkish-crimson breast. Crimson of male's plumage replaced by orange-yellow on female. Upland village fields.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* 18 cm

Pakistan and India. A large, buff-brown, stocky bunting with a stout pale bill, comparatively short tail and heavily streaked upperparts and underparts. Lacks white in tail. Cultivation. **TN** Formerly placed in *Miliaria*.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana* 16 cm

Pakistan and India. Similar in appearance to Grey-necked Bunting, with pinkish-orange bill, plain head and prominent eye-ring. Male has olive-grey head and breast, and yellow submoustachial stripe and throat. Female is similar with streaking on crown and breast. First-winter and juvenile are more heavily streaked on mantle, malar region and breast than Grey-necked; submoustachial stripe and throat are buffish, but often with touch of yellow which helps separate it from Grey-necked. Orchards and open woodland.

Rustic Bunting *Emberiza rustica* 14–15 cm

Nepal. Striking head pattern (broad supercilium, dark sides to crown and border to ear-coverts), rufous streaking on breast and flanks, white belly, rufous on nape, and prominent white median-covert bar. Crown feathers are frequently raised. In breeding plumage, male has black sides to crown and ear-coverts, which strongly contrast with white crown stripes and supercilium, and solid rufous band across breast. Damp grassland.

APPENDIX 2
DOUBTFUL SPECIES

Széchenyi's Monal Partridge (Buff-throated Partridge) *Tetraophasis szechenyii*

Tibetan Eared Pheasant *Crossoptilon harmani*

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*

White-winged Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

Mascarene Petrel *Pterodroma aterrima*

Soft-plumaged Petrel *Pterodroma mollis*

White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii*

Oriental Stork *Ciconia boyciana*

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Red-legged Crake *Rallina fasciata*

Hooded Crane *Grus monacha*

Black-fronted Dotterel *Elseyornis melanops*

Slender-billed Curlew *Numenius tenuirostris*

White-eyed Gull *Ichthyaetus leucophthalmus*

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

Derbyan Parakeet *Psittacula derbiana*

Hume's Owl *Strix butleri*

Plain-pouched Hornbill *Rhyticeros subruficollis*

Eared Pitta *Pitta phayrei*

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus*

Giant Babax *Babax waddelli*

Elliot's Laughingthrush *Garrulax elliotii*

Brown-cheeked Laughingthrush *Garrulax henrici*

Small Snowfinch *Pyrgilauda davidiana*

Siberian Accentor *Prunella montanella*

Black-headed Greenfinch *Carduelis ambigua*

Japanese Grosbeak *Eophona personata*

Godlewski's Bunting *Emberiza godlewskii*

Pallas's Reed Bunting *Emberiza pallasi*

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

INDIA

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)
http://www.bnhs.org/
Hornbill House, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road/ Salim Ali Chowk, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400001
Email: info@bnhs.org
Publications: *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*; *Hornbill* magazine

Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON)
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History, Kalayampalayam, Coimbatore 641 010
Email: centre@sacon.ernet.in
Publication: SACON newsletter

Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
http://www.wii.gov.in/
Post Box #18, Chandrabani, Dehradun – 248001, Uttarakhand
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Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)
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Publications: *Newsletter of the Zoological Survey of India; Records of the Zoological Survey of India*; Annual Reports

PAKISTAN

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PO Box 73,109/D, Dera Ghazi Khan, 32200 Pakistan
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NEPAL

Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN)
http://www.birdlifenepal.org
Post Box 12465, Kathmandu
Email: bcn@mail.com.np
Publications: *Danphe* English language newsletter; *Munal* Nepali language newsletter, *Gidha Sandesh* Vulture conservation programme newsletter

SRI LANKA

Ceylon Bird Club
http://www.ceylonbirdclub.org/
39 Chatham Street, Colombo
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Field Ornithology Group of Sri Lanka (FOGSL)
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BANGLADESH

Nature Conservation Movement
http://www.pciaonline.org/node/191
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INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

BirdLife International
http://www.birdlife.org
Wellbrook Court, Girton Road, Cambridge CB3 0NA
Publication:*World Birdwatch* magazine

Wetlands International
http://south-asia.wetlands.org
South Asia Office, A-127, 2nd Floor,
Defence Colony, New Delhi 110 024, India.
Email: wi.southasia@wi-sa.org
Publication: *Wetlands* (newsletter of Wetlands International)

World Pheasant Association (WPA)
http://www.pheasant.org.uk/
Biology Field Station, Newcastle University,
Close House Estate, Heddon-on-the-Wall,
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WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)

WWF India
http://www.wwfindia.org/
172-B Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110 023

WWF Pakistan
http://wwfpak.org/
PO Box 5180, Ferozepur Road, Lahore
Email: info@wwf.org.pk

WWF Nepal Programme
http://www.wwfnepal.org/
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PO Box 7660, Baluwatar, Kathmandu
Email: info@wwfnepal.org

WWF Bhutan Programme
http://wwf.panda.org/who_we_are/wwf_offices/bhutan/
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Oriental Bird Club (OBC)
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